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SCIENTIST PUTS A FREEZE ON THE WIND-CHILL FACTOR

EXPERT SAYS THE FORMULA USED SINCE THE 1970S EXAGGERATED THE 'FEELS LIKE' TEMPERATURE, AND THE 2001 RECALCULATION IS STILL A BIT OFF PAGE 6

BILLY BOB WANTS BENEFITS FROM FRIENDS STAR

GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER SHARES A 'LIFELONG GOAL' BACKSTAGE AT AWARDS SHOW, SAYING HE'D LIKE AMOROUS ATTENTION FROM JENNIFER ANISTON PAGE 15

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

DEROZAN'S BEST PLAY

DeMar DeRozan plays a basketball video game with starry-eyed 10-year-old Kadin Jules as the Toronto Raptors made their annual visit to The Hospital for Sick Children on Tuesday. When will the injured DeRozan return to bolster the Raptors' sagging fortunes? See story, page 27. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Library wants your books

Pilot project. Initiative to buy bestselling novels from the public launched to cut costs and reduce wait times

Bestsellers

For a list of books the library is currently buying, visit www.tpl.ca/sellbooks.

LUKE SIMCOE
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If you're still waiting to borrow a copy of The Goldfinch from the Toronto Public Library, relief may be in sight.

The library has launched a pilot project aimed at buying bestselling novels from the public, to reduce wait times and keep costs in check.

If you've got a copy of the latest John Grisham kicking around, you can sell it at the reference library for $5.

Chief librarian Vickery Bowles said she's unaware of any other library in North America with a similar program.

When demand for a book surges — for example, when Us Conductors by Sean Michaels won the Giller Prize — waiting lists can be anywhere from six to 10 weeks. "And that's assuming people turn their books in on time," Bowles said.

The library still plans to buy the same amount of popular novels (about one copy for every six holds placed on a title) and Bowles says the program is meant only to "supplement" the existing collection.

The library has bought 20 books from the public since the program started last month, but Bowles says it's too early to gauge its efficacy. The pilot will run until next winter, when the library will decide if it should become a permanent program.

The library is under pressure to rein in spending, and Bowles said the book-buying initiative is just one strategy to cut costs while maintaining service.

Other examples include a partnership with Indigo Books that lets readers buy books through the library's online catalogue. Bowles also pointed to a campaign encouraging readers to donate only books that can be added to the collection or sold at library bookstores, as opposed to "old encyclopedia sets and long runs of National Geographic."

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Most wanted: Liberals and Tories have eyes on Blair

'Everybody wants the guy.' Outgoing police chief would bring name recognition and credibility to whichever, if any, party he joins

Bill Blair could make the leap from top cop to Parliament Hill.

Both the Liberals and Conservatives have their eyes on Blair when he hangs up his badge in the coming months after a decade as chief of the Toronto Police Service, a source told the Star.

"Nothing I can say other than everybody wants the guy," said the official of one political party in the hunt.

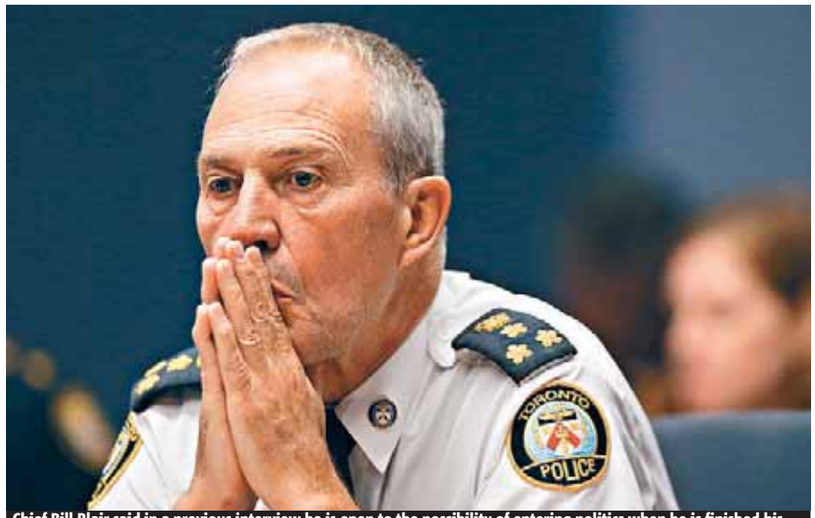
The long-serving and high-profile police chief, a polished speaker, would be a prize catch for any of the parties, especially in Toronto, which promises to be a hard-fought battleground in the fall election.

Blair's tenure as Toronto police chief ends April 25. In a recent interview with Torstar News Service, he left open the possibility of entering politics, saying he would not be done working at the end of his term.

Blair, a 35-year policing veteran, would bring instant name recognition and credibility in areas of law and order as well as social issues, thanks to his time as a police officer and volunteer in community organizations.

After two disastrous election showings, the Liberals have been working to bolster their slate of candidates.

And while the Conservatives would also like Blair in their camp, the chief sparked a backlash from the party in 2010 over his support for the long-gun registry, an episode that may influence Blair's political leanings.



Chief Bill Blair said in a previous interview he is open to the possibility of entering politics when he is finished his tenure as Toronto's chief of police in April. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blair is now in his final months on the job after the Toronto Police Board last year denied the chief's bid for a two-year contract extension. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lakeside 'warming huts' celebrate winter in style

For most people, a cabana to escape the sun is the shelter of choice on a sandy beach.

But Torontonians will be able to take refuge this winter on a barren stretch of shoreline in the city's east end, thanks to an international design competition to build warming huts around five lifeguard stations in Beaches Park at the foot of Kew Gardens.

"We're celebrating the outdoors and the adjacency of the lake," said Roland Rom Colthoff, the director of RAW architects, the Toronto firm that launched the competition with architect Ted Merrick of Ferris & Associates. "We're celebrating that landscape in the wintertime, which we would argue is underappreciated."

The chosen structures are a novel take on the competition's theme of warmth, and include a nine-seat swing with fabric to defend against the cold and a throne made of reclaimed wood that offers shelter and a view of the lake from a lifeguard's perspective.

Colthoff said he and Merrick, a landscape architect, pursued the idea after RAW entered a design competition in Winnipeg for warming huts last year and won with a submission made of pool noodles, which it called "Nuzzles."

"It was a really wonderful, great experience," said Colthoff. "People normally hibernate in the cold, and here's the City of Winnipeg trying to celebrate the cold and celebrating what they can do outdoors."

The four winners are from England, the U.S. and Canada. A fifth station was designed by engineering and architectural science students from Ryerson University, who were invited to participate.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City culture

The temporary installations in Toronto are a way to celebrate "the culture of living in the city," said Roland Rom Colthoff, the director of RAW architects.

- The architects relied on developers to provide the $15,000 needed for each installation.

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Company directors jailed for safety violations

Two company directors have been jailed after pleading guilty to safety violations that led to the death of a warehouse worker.

Baldev Pura and Rajinder Saini — both directors of New Mex Canada Inc. — were sentenced to 25 days in jail.

And New Mex Canada, an importer and retailer of furniture and accessories, has been fined $250,000.

On Jan. 18, 2013, a worker was moving merchandise in a Brampton warehouse using a combination forklift/operator-up platform called an order picker.

The order picker had been modified and had an additional platform supported by the forks that did not have a guard rail around it. The worker wasn't wearing fall protection or safety shoes.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found multiple violations of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act and of Ontario Regulation 851, which covers industrial workplaces.

Pura and Saini were both charged with failing as directors of New Mex Canada to take reasonable care that the corporation complied with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and with Regulation 851.

In addition to the 25 days in jail — to be served on weekends — both were ordered to take a health and safety course within the next 60 days.

New Mex Canada pleaded guilty to failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker regarding fall protection and/or working from a height.

The company also pleaded guilty to failing as an employer to ensure the safety measures required by law were carried out.

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Hotel Waverly and the Silver Dollar at the corner of College and Spadina. The Silver Dollar Room has received official heritage designation.

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Landmark gets heritage status

Silver Dollar Room. Distinction gives music venue protection from demolition, prevents building of 22-storey residential complex

LUKE SIMCOE
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The Silver Dollar Room might just live to rock another day.

The iconic music venue at College Street and Spadina Avenue received official heritage designation Tuesday, a move that makes the building harder to demolish as part of a planned student-housing project.

Built in 1958, the bluegrass hot spot has played host to musicians like Bob Dylan and was a breeding ground for local acts such as Blue Rodeo and the Barenaked Ladies.

James Earl Ray, the man who shot Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, was rumoured to drink at the bar while hiding out at the adjacent Waverly Hotel.

"For me personally, it's a strong place of cultural heritage," said Coun. Joe Cressy, whose ward includes the bar. "Growing up in Toronto, Bluegrass Wednesdays at the Silver Dollar was an institution."

The Silver Dollar Room was first threatened by the wrecking ball in 2013 when its owner, Paul Wynn, announced plans to build a 22-storey residential building on the site.

While it's not a guarantee, Cressy said the heritage designation will help those who want to see the venue preserved.

"It's like we've stacked one more piece of furniture in front of the door," he said.

Hamilton

Two city workers suspended over pot brownie incident

The City of Hamilton has suspended two workers after pot brownies were brought to a work potluck and an unsuspecting co-worker became ill, the Hamilton Spectator reports.

There is an investigation into the pre-Christmas incident at the Stoney Creek public-works yard, confirmed Sandra Walker, president of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 5167, who declined to comment further.

But the Spectator has independently learned paramedics were called after an unknowing co-worker tried the brownies and fell ill.

After the city was contacted by the Spectator, public-works head Gerry Davis emailed an assurance to councillors that "we are taking this matter very seriously."

Davis said in the e-mail an "internal investigation" is underway and should be completed by the end of the week. Hamilton paramedics responded to the Jones Road public-works yard Dec. 22 at 11:40 a.m. and transported a 20-year-old man to Hamilton General.

The city worker who experienced an "adverse reaction" required medical attention, Davis said, but has recovered and returned to work. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Mobile classroom fighting hate

School visits. Group wrapping recent terror attacks in discussions on intolerance

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Students on board the Tour for Humanity bus, a mobile classroom that aims to eradicate hate. CONTRIBUTED

A Toronto group is using recent current events to teach young people about the dangers of hate and intolerance.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies started the Tour for Humanity last year, visiting schools across Ontario on a bus and talking to youths about genocides like the Holocaust.

Now, they're wrapping recent terrorist attacks in Paris, news of young people joining terrorist organizations like ISIL and the Parliament Hill shooting into their discussions.

"Young people are being radicalized and going to fight overseas for various terrorist organizations," said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of the organization. "The question for us is, 'How do we prevent these things from happening, or try to prevent them?'"

Part of the answer is open discussion, Benlolo said. Along with teaching students about such world-changing people as Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank, the tour creates a safe environment for discussions among students of different faiths, different ethnicities and diverse backgrounds.

"The whole focus is about improving the world and fighting against racism, hate, intolerance and anti-Semitism," he said, explaining the program has reached about 150 schools and more than 50,000 students.

"They've learned to be problem solvers in their schools," Benlolo added. "They start talking to one another about these issues."

The centre had been offering Toronto-based workshops on the history of the Holocaust and other universal genocides with the aim of helping people — especially youths — understand the root causes of such tragedies and how to prevent them.

The bus tour was launched to reach a broader audience and, ultimately, shape a better world.

"We have to do our best to bring humanity forward," Benlolo said.

Quoted

"It's the same fight for all of us, the fight against hatred."

Avi Benlolo, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

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Scientist sucks bluster out of wind-chill factor

Scientist Randall Osczevski holds a manikin head that he's used to correctly calculate wind chill. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The underlying principle of the wind-chill factor is simple: when it's windy out, it feels colder. But finding a reliable way of measuring this is a whole other problem. Enter the wind-chill factor.

"There's very few things that unite Canadians, but what does unite us is our need to know the wind chill," says David Phillips, senior climatologist at Environment Canada.

Take Tuesday's extreme cold: Environment Canada reported that although the air temperature was a frigid -21 C, it actually feels closer to -31 C.

But does it really?

In a nutshell, the equivalent "feels like" temperature measures how cold it would have to be in still air to feel as cold as it does given the wind. While the temperature of the air is not actually colder, bodies will lose heat as if, in still air, the temperature was lower. According to Phillips, 82 per cent of Canadians make decisions — such as how to dress or whether to go outside — based on the wind chill.

But Arctic physicist and wind-chill expert Randall Osczevski, from Newmarket, says that the formula widely used since the 1970s exaggerated how cold it would feel. According to Phillips, the old formula assumed a person was "undressed and sitting on a park bench," which made the "feels like" temperature staggeringly low.

In 2001, Osczevski and his American colleague Maurice Bluestein published a paper that recalculated the equivalent temperature formula, taking into account various factors such as body size and dress. Osczevski's new formula, adopted by Environment Canada and the U.S., increased the wind-chill temperature by as much as 15 degrees. But he says that his method is still a bit off. He wanted to calculate how wind chill affected those most vulnerable to frost bite, not the average person, so the formula skews a bit low.

Despite the fact that his formula is partly responsible for today's weather report, Osczevski actually prefers the old days when wind chill was reported using a separate scale, because it's more honest.

"I don't like equivalent temperature at all, I think it's a deceptive simplification," Osczevski says, saying there are just too many factors, like sunlight, body insulation and dress, to come up with a true constant. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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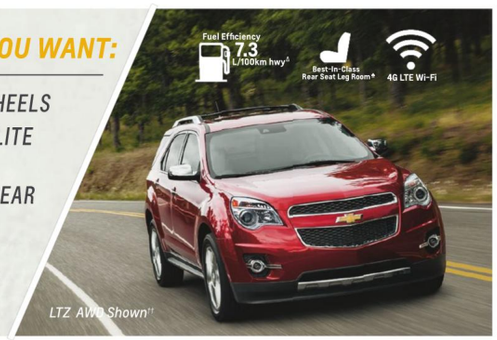

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‘This was not what my life was going to be’

Leaving her job. MP behind controversial prostitution bill to step down from position

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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Member of Parliament and anti-human-trafficking advocate Joy Smith has decided, now that the controversial prostitution law is in full force in Canada, her job in Parliament is done.

“I’ve just finished the last bill on prostitution with (Minister of Justice) Peter McKay and I think now I’ve put the period at the end of the sentence,” she told Metro after announcing she will not run again in 2015.

Smith said that the legal tools she wanted are now in place in Canada — the prostitution law and two private-member’s bills she helped pass that strengthen laws against human trafficking of children and sexual exploitation abroad — so she will devote herself full-time to her cause.

That includes participating in a panel discussion in Toronto on Thursday, hosted by the Economic Club of Canada. She will speak alongside her son, RCMP Cpl. Edward Riglin, and two survivors of human trafficking.

Economic club spokeswoman Kara Merpaw said human trafficking isn’t typical subject matter for her organization, but it is planning to host a series of talks by Smith across Canada.

“The issue of human trafficking is a local one. That’s a major focus of each of the panels: letting people know it’s not just something that happens elsewhere,” Merpaw said.

Smith said it was through her son’s police work that she learned about the sexual trafficking of children. She never intended to be an MP but rather a school principal.

“This was not what my life was going to be,” she said. “I’m not a very good politician. I’ve never been attracted to it but I’m really glad I did it. I love being an MP and serving my constituents, but the reason I went to Parliament was to stop human trafficking. What I want to do now is continue that work.”

In the decade Smith has served as an MP, the issue of human trafficking — forced labour, including forced prostitution — has become a criminal offence, a priority for law enforcement and a public, sometimes ideologically divisive, debate.

Smith had a hand in the prostitution law that came into force last month. She’s been influential and holds the controversial view that sex work can’t be consensual, that all prostitution is human trafficking.

“They are one and the same,” she said. “I can tell you the people who are pushing back so readily are the people making money off the girls and the boys so they become associations or they become the voice. We’ll read the transcripts in the public hearings we had in the House of Commons and listen to the real stories because we hear these people from organizations that want to keep their cash flow coming in.”

Akio Maroon, chair of Maggie’s Toronto, an advocacy group run for and by sex workers, can be counted among Smith’s critics and is one of those who “push back” against her view of sex work.

“For me, her legacy is one of fighting against human rights, one that stands in opposition of workers’ rights for sex workers.”

Maroon said Smith’s contention that those who oppose her view — and see sex work as a choice — are making money off their advocacy is disproved by people like her, who are unpaid for their advocacy work.

“I’ve never received a single dime. I work for free,” she said.

“It’s very sad we had someone in political office who actively worked against the safety and dignity of sex workers,” Maroon said. “She will go down in history with sex workers’ blood on her hands.”

However, she said she didn’t dispute that Smith has had an impact, if a divisive one. “When you talk about Joy Smith, everybody gets really impassioned, because she really doesn’t get it,” Maroon said.

“She will not be missed,” she said, adding, “I don’t think we’ve really seen the end of her.”

Quoted

“There have been films like Pretty Woman that glamourize prostitution ... but that’s not the way the real world happens at all. These young girls are lured into it, they’re raped, they’re shot up with drugs.”

MP Joy Smith

MP Joy Smith is doing a panel discussion in Toronto on Thursday, hosted by the Economic Club of Canada.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

University of Toronto engineering society president Teresa Nguyen in the Blue and Gold Committee Room on Tuesday. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

U of T trophies, banners plundered in break-in

The first clues were the footprints, hammer marks and a door bent from its frame.

At 8 a.m. Sunday, a University of Toronto engineering student discovered that all was not right inside the Blue and Gold Committee Room.

“A student on the concrete toboggan team was trying to get tools to work on his concrete toboggan and realized the door was damaged. He looked in and realized things were a complete mess in there,” engineering society president Teresa Nguyen recounted. “Our Blue and Gold Room was broken into.”

The room — named after the society’s colours — is home to an extensive collection of tools, flags and swag.

In what Nguyen called a “friendly rivalry taken way too far,” someone stole “iconic objects of the engineering community.” Those objects included trophies, banners and $800 intended for charity.

“It was in a safe, locked with just a regular lock,” she said about the money. “And if you look hard enough, you can find bolt cutters; so bolt cutters were used to cut the lock, and the safe was opened.”

Thieves also took student coveralls and hard hats that double as personal mementoes — decorated with patches denoting different clubs, heritages and nationalities, akin to a scout uniform.

Nguyen said she suspects a rival engineering society or student group is to blame.

“We do have friendly rivalries with other engineering schools and other colleges” within the university, she said, rivalries meant to “enhance a bit of community talk and community gossip.”

The odd flag might get stolen at an event, but “it would always be in a civilized manner,” she said.

Sunday’s burglary was different.

“This kind of act is not an acceptable form of rivalry, is malicious, destructive and falls under criminal behaviour,” the society noted in a letter to professors advising of the break-in.

The society has filed reports with campus and city police and launched its own investigation.

“We’re asking the different student leaders across the campus to see if they heard anything,” Nguyen said.

Her main hope is that students get their coveralls and hard hats back.

“These are really special keepsakes for students to have when they graduate,” she said.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD/METRO

Education

Despite wage freeze, some school boards hike pay for education directors

At least 21 of Ontario’s 75 school boards ignored the public-sector wage freeze in 2013 and gave pay increases to their directors of education, according to figures compiled from the sunshine list of public-sector workers paid over $100,000 a year.

The issue came to light after the Toronto District School Board voted Monday night to allow its director of education, Donna Quan, to keep her $289,000 salary even though her predecessor was paid $17,000 less.

Education Minister Liz Sandals sent the TDSB a letter in December saying Quan’s salary should be $272,000, but trustees voted for the increased rate after hearing that 20 other school boards also gave their directors of education pay hikes despite the wage freeze ordered by the Liberal government.

Most of them received salary increases of less than five per cent, but some of the pay hikes went into double digits.

Sandals’ office said Tuesday that the government was looking to see if all the school boards were in compliance with the rules on executive compensation during the period when wages were supposed to be frozen.

“It is important to note that the locally elected board of trustees are responsible for negotiating contracts with the director of education,” said Sandals’ press secretary Nilani Logeswaran.

The Progressive Conservatives said the Liberal government has never stuck to its vow to impose a real wage freeze, especially in the education sector.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Report. Time-of-use pricing not spurring conservation

The difference in electricity prices between peak and off-peak times in Ontario is far too small to encourage people to conserve energy, the province's environment watchdog said Tuesday.

Environmental commissioner Gord Miller's conservation progress report echoed findings of the auditor general, who has said that the narrow difference undermines time-of-use pricing as an incentive for ratepayers to shift to off-peak.

Both oversight officers have found that the majority of local electricity-distribution utilities are missing targets for peak reduction and about half are expected to miss their target for reducing overall consumption.

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk found last month that the Liberal government's $2-billion smart-meter program has so far spent double its projected cost and has not led to the government's electricity-conservation goals being met. The energy minister has disputed Lysyk's numbers.

Miller reviewed dozens of countries with time-of-use electricity pricing and found that for significant savings to be achieved, the peak price must be four or five times higher than the off-peak cost. In Ontario, the ratio is 1.8 to one.

Ontario Power Authority and Ontario Energy Board studies have shown a two to five per cent reduction in consumption during peak periods.

"Let's make it where it should be, four or five to one, and then we'll see conservation or reduction of peak of 10 per cent or so according to the international data," Miller said.

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Dr. Steven Narod, a leading breast-cancer researcher based at Toronto's Women's College Hospital. CONTRIBUTED

Race affects breast cancer survival: Study

Outcomes. Toronto researcher finds black women more likely to die of the disease than white, Japanese women

Race may influence whether women diagnosed with breast cancer will survive, suggests a new study that found black women are more likely to die even when their tumours are found when they are small and theoretically easier to treat.

The study, which is based on U.S. data, said that even when breast cancer is diagnosed at Stage 1, black women have a higher risk of dying than white women or women of Japanese ethnicity.

Senior author Dr. Steven Narod said it had long been thought differences in outcomes between white and black women with breast cancer were related to access to quality health care in the United States, where before the Affordable Care Act came into effect, more black women may have been without health insurance.

But he said that by mining a large U.S. database that registers breast-cancer cases by stage at diagnosis, income status, race and ethnicity, he and his colleagues concluded that isn't the case.

"The assumption that we're going to eliminate differences in cancer outcomes by eliminating differences in health care is not that well-founded," said Narod, a leading breast-cancer researcher based at Toronto's Women's College Hospital.

"There may be intrinsic biological differences that account for some of the differences in outcomes that cannot be eliminated."

With some types of breast cancer, the earlier the tumour is found the more likely it is that the woman will survive. So looking only at cancers diagnosed early should have eliminated the survival differences one might have expected to see if one racial group's problems accessing care meant their cancers were typically found later.

The researchers saw that black women were less likely to be diagnosed with Stage 1 cancer than women of Japanese heritage. But even if they were first diagnosed with a Stage 1 tumour, black women were more likely to die from the cancer than white women or women of Japanese ethnicity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Details

- Dr. Steven Narod and his co-authors analyzed data on nearly 375,000 women with invasive breast cancer that was diagnosed from 2004 to 2011. The study is published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.
- They looked at the stage of the cancer at diagnosis, in particular focusing on women whose cancers were found at the earliest stage, when the cancers were less than two centimetres in size.

Major security changes for Hill were rejected: Sources

Shelved over a year ago. Proposals included having a unified security force on Parliament Hill

At least two separate proposals urging major changes to Parliament Hill security were prepared and shelved more than a year before the Oct. 22 attack on Parliament Hill, Torstar News Service has learned.

At the request of former public-safety minister Vic Toews, the RCMP worked on a proposal for a single security force.

The idea of a single force is akin to the U.S. Capitol Police, a federal law-enforcement agency that protects the American Congress. Some advocates believe such a force would offer both cost savings and tighter security. There does not, however, appear to be any appetite internally or externally for that force to be the Mounties.

But for reasons that are not clear, according to multiple sources who spoke to Torstar on condition they not be named, the proposal did not advance and was rejected in 2013 after Toews was replaced by Steven Blaney, the current minister.

An advisory group of senior Commons and Senate members that was struck after the Oct. 22 attack is working to come up with recommendations for overhauling security on the Hill — with one eye on exactly that: a single force that could look more like the one that patrols Capitol Hill in Washington.

The joint working group expects to report by mid-spring on a plan to reinforce physical safety at Parliament Hill.

Sources say that a small group of senators drafted a response to the federal auditor general's report of June 2012, which agreed with the audit and urged the two parliamentary services be unified under a single point of command.

However, it appears the suggestion foundered long ago over disputes about whether the Commons and Senate authorities would have equal say in its management.

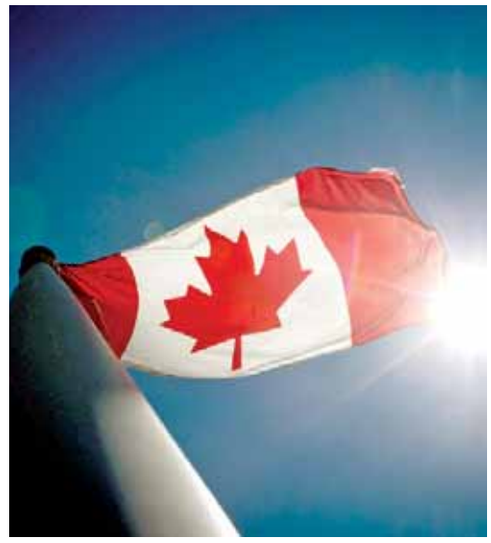
Two sources also said the Conservative government was considering a dramatic suggestion to turn Wellington Street in front of the Parliament Buildings into a pedestrian mall and re-route traffic, as was done in 1995 with Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Advisory group

Torstar has learned that other recommendations of the security advisory group include:

- Pushing the physical screening of public visitors onto the exterior of the parliamentary lawn and away from Centre Block.
- The closure of two public points of access onto the Hill leaving just three main entrances where gate checks could be conducted.
- Mandatory firearms training for all guards.



Day of the flag draws near

With Feb. 15, the 50th birthday of Canada's beloved Maple Leaf flag, approaching, some are wondering why there has been so little fanfare from the federal government. The party planning appears to pale in comparison to a multimillion-dollar effort to mark Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 and the $5.2 million that was spent to mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The founder of the Canada Flag Holiday Campaign wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper this week to express his disappointment in the government's lack of plans to celebrate the flag, the brainchild of former Liberal prime minister Lester B. Pearson that was adopted in 1965. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa

U of O and its president face suit

The University of Ottawa and its president, Allan Rock, face a class-action lawsuit over the suspension of the men's hockey team in connection with a sexual-assault probe. The lawsuit was launched Tuesday in Ontario's Superior Court of Justice. Two students on the team were charged last summer with sexual assault. The two are not part of the lawsuit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

National security

Terror suspects were on watch list

The three suspects arrested in a five-day terrorism sweep were among roughly 90 names on the RCMP's national-security watch list, Torstar News Service has confirmed. Law enforcement sources expect more terrorism-related arrests, as the world's attention remains focused on last week's attacks in Paris.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Muhammad weeps on Charlie Hebdo's cover

Defiant front. Shows the prophet holding a sign with words 'All is forgiven' above him

Patrick Pellous, Charlie Hebdo journalist and president of Liberation newspaper, holds the new issue of Charlie Hebdo at a press conference at the Liberation offices in Paris on Tuesday. AURELIEN MEUNIER/GETTY IMAGES

Charlie Hebdo released a new version of its irreverent and often offensive newspaper Tuesday, defiantly putting a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on the cover that drew immediate criticism and threats of more violence.

The newspaper also skewered other religions and ran a double-page spread illustrating Sunday's march in Paris that drew more than a million people to condemn terrorism, claiming that the turnout was larger "than for Mass."

"For the past week, Charlie, an atheist newspaper, has achieved more miracles than all the saints and prophets combined," it said in the lead editorial. "The one we are most proud of is that you have in your hands the newspaper that we always made."

Charlie Hebdo planned an unprecedented print run of three million copies Wednesday — one week to the day after the assault by two masked gunmen that killed 12 people, including much of its editorial staff and two police officers. It was the beginning of three days of terror that saw 17 people killed before the three Islamic extremist attackers were gunned down by security forces.

Surviving staff members are now using the offices of the Liberation newspaper, which has lent out space.

The latest cover shows a weeping Muhammad, holding a sign reading "I am Charlie" with the words "All is forgiven" above him. Renald Luzier, the cartoonist who drew the cover image under the pen name "Luz," said it represents "just a little guy who's crying."

Then he added, unapologetically: "Yes, it is Muhammad."

Speaking at a news conference in Paris on Tuesday at which he repeatedly broke down crying, Luzier described weeping after he drew the picture. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-terrorism

PM asks for tougher measures

France's prime minister demanded tougher anti-terrorism measures Tuesday after deadly attacks that some call the French 9/11 — and that may already be leading to a crackdown on liberties in exchange for greater security. Police told The Associated Press that the weapons used came from abroad, as authorities in several countries searched for possible accomplices and the sources of financing for last week's attacks.

Germany. Leaders push for tolerance

German political and religious leaders appealed for tolerance Tuesday in the wake of the Paris terror attacks, a message meant to counter both religious extremists and growing anti-Islam protests in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Joachim Gauck were among those who took part in the rally organized by Muslim groups near Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate and the French embassy, where wreaths were laid for the 17 people killed by Islamic extremists in Paris last week.

A group calling itself Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, has been staging anti-Islam protests in the eastern city of Dresden for the last three months. Its latest protest Monday drew a record 25,000 supporters, with speakers citing the Paris attacks as proof of the danger posed by Islam. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Oil-prices fallout

Suncor Energy cutting 1,000 jobs

Suncor Energy is reducing its workforce by 1,000 and cutting $1 billion from its budget in response to falling crude-oil prices. The Calgary-based giant says the cuts will mainly affect contractors but include some employee positions. Projects not given a final go-ahead are being deferred. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
83.65¢ (+ 0.09¢)

TSX
14,187.16 (- 77.85)

OIL
$45.89 US (- 18¢)

GOLD
$1,234.40 US (+ $1.60)

Natural gas: $ 2.943 (+14.8¢)
Dow Jones: 17,613.68 (- 27.16)

Deposit on homes a phone tap away

Real-estate purchases. New service called ExactDeposit expected to be rolled out in the spring in brokerages across the country

The mad scramble involved in putting down a deposit on a new home can be more than just a hassle — in some cases it can be a deal-breaker.

In an age when most purchases can be paid with a tap from a credit card or smartphone, the process of paying a deposit to secure a real-estate deal is still tied to old-fashioned paper — bank drafts and cheques — and tight delivery deadlines.

But the process that often involves homeowners making multiple bank visits, skipping work and racing to the realtor's office before closing time could soon be entering a new era. Starting in February, Royal LePage Atlantic will be one of several Halifax-area brokerages that will allow homebuyers to pay their deposits via mobile devices.

Halifax-based realtor Chris Ryan co-founded ExactDeposit with his friend Kevin Kline, who has worked in technology and telecommunications for more than two decades. The pair enlisted the help of computer science PhD candidates at Dalhousie University to develop a secure and mobile-friendly website that allows homebuyers to pay their deposits — around $5,000 on average — using credit cards, a smartphone, tablet or computer. Realtors will pay less than $10 a month for unlimited usage, while homebuyers will be charged 2.9 per cent of their transaction — a price that Kline admits may be too steep for some.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2015 top tech trend

Deloitte picks mobile payment

More Canadians will be reaching for their cellphones to pay for purchases this year, predicts global professional services firm Deloitte.

A report released Tuesday sees 2015 as a "tipping point" for retailers, banks and telecom companies to adopt the technology, which allows consumers to pay with their smartphones.

Duncan Stewart, a director at Deloitte Canada, said there now are more phone models with the technology, called near field communication, and more retail locations that can accept the payments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

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Try a little social experiment. Turn to the person sitting beside you on the train or bus and go through the 36-point exercise printed below. It could make you fall in love.

It apparently worked for Mandy Len Catron, a University of British Columbia writing teacher, who fell in love with a man after going through this very exercise and staring into his eyes for exactly four minutes.

The experiment was created more than 20 years ago by psychologist Arthur Aron, who says he successfully got strangers to fall in love by having them ask and answer a series of questions that gradually become more and more intimate. Len Catron recently wrote about her experience in the New York Times, detailing how she and an acquaintance recreated the experiment at a bar one night, and two hours later, were in love. Skeptical? Give these a try!

Grab a random stranger and start asking questions: It just might lead to love. ISTOCK

1. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?

2. Would you like to be famous? In what way?

3. Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?

4. What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

5. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?

6. If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the mind or body of a 30-year-old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?

7. Do you have a secret hunch about how you will die?

8. Name three things you and your partner appear to have in common.

9. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

10. If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?

11. Take four minutes and tell your partner your life story in as much detail as possible.

12. If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?

13. If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future or anything else, what would you want to know?

14. Is there something that you've dreamt of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?

15. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?

16. What do you value most in a friendship?

17. What is your most treasured memory?

18. What is your most terrible memory?

19. If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?

20. What does friendship mean to you?

21. What roles do love and affection play in your life?

22. Alternate sharing something you consider a positive characteristic of your partner. Share a total of five items.

23. How close and warm is your family? Do you feel your childhood was happier than most other people's?

24. How do you feel about your relationship with your mother?

25. Make three true "we" statements each. For instance, "We are both in this room feeling ..."

26. Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share ..."

27. If you were going to become a close friend with your partner, please share what would be important for him or her to know.

28. Tell your partner what you like about them; be very honest this time, saying things that you might not say to someone you've just met.

29. Share with your partner an embarrassing moment in your life.

30. When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?

31. Tell your partner something that you like about them already.

32. What, if anything, is too serious to be joked about?

33. If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?

34. Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?

35. Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing? Why?

36. Share a personal problem and ask your partner's advice on how he or she might handle it. Also, ask your partner to reflect back to you how you seem to be feeling about the problem you have chosen.

****Don't forget to stare at each other for four minutes after****

Et voilà! You should be deciding on the names of your children right about now. **METRO**

SO ... DID IT WORK?
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I broke my back sledding a decade ago, and I'm still suffering

DYLAN REARDON
readers@metronews.ca

I've watched the debate about whether cities should ban tobogganing with some interest. Sledding can be dangerous, and I think municipalities should have some control over where it happens. I should know. I broke my back a decade ago while sledding at Confederation Park in Calgary, and my life has been altered by that event.

On Boxing Day of 2003, my brother and I decided to go sledding. I hadn't been tobogganing in a decade and the weather was fantastic: Sunny, blue skies, mild temperature — there may have been Chinook that day.

Upon arriving at the hill, there were ominous signs that amused me at the time: a broken GT Snow Racer ski, pieces of shattered crazy carpets, lost gloves, helmets, etc. Years later and after the fact, I like to refer to the scene as a toboggan graveyard. My brother went down the hill first on a large plastic disk. The snow was compact, presumably from thrill seekers leading up to that day, and because the weather was quite warm, the snow had melted and re-frozen a few times. As a result, he went like a bat out of hell as I watched anxiously.

It was my turn. I didn't even have a chance to put my legs back onto the toboggan before I was completely out of control. My journey down the hill seemed like minutes, and the whole time I was using my legs as breaks to try and slow my speed. And then, BAM! It was a feeling I have trouble describing. A feeling I cannot forget. My entire body felt like it was broken in half. All I felt was pain. It was fierce and relentless, and I've never felt anything like it since.

When I arrived at the hospital, they tied me down to a table for two weeks, before placing me in a body cast for six months. I had suffered a burst-compression fracture of my L1 vertebra.

While in hospital, I was told that tobogganing accidents are incredibly common, and one of the reasons for this is that the human derriere isn't built to absorb the extreme forces that come from tobogganing. Unlike, say, the knees when you're skiing.

Since the accident I've suffered from chronic pain and an inability to sit down or sleep for any length of time. I can walk, but in a very limited sense: typically no more than a few hundred metres before back pain gets too intense. When this happens, my legs also become weak.

The medications to deal with this are brutal, in that they make me incredibly tired and zombie-like. Since the break I've been losing more and more feeling in my legs. About 40 per cent total loss right now. The reason for this is because over-compensation has led to increased degeneration of my spine directly above where I broke my back.

Like every sport or activity, tobogganing carries risks and dangers. My accident was a freak accident. I could have broken my neck on the boards playing hockey. I could have been hit in the head with a golf ball while on the back nine.

I do not agree with an outright ban, and limiting times and conditions seems like ridiculous government overreach. However, designating safe places to toboggan seems like a prudent course of action. There are inherent risks in any activity, but we can try to minimize those risks.

Dylan Reardon is a Calgary-based student and writer. He runs the satirical news website Urban Anomie.

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Leonardo DiCaprio GETTY IMAGES

Leo and RiRi play the flirting game

Rihanna GETTY IMAGES

Leonardo DiCaprio and Rihanna were spotted living it up together at a recent Playboy Mansion party, which admittedly sounds like a game of Hollywood gossip Mad-libs. But when it comes to how intimate they were getting, we're left with a different game all together: duelling anonymous sources.

One such source claims that DiCaprio and Rihanna were being incredibly flirty, going so far as locking lips at the soiree.

But another? "No one was making out. They are just friends. That's it," the second source tells E! News. "There was a big group dancing. Tom Hardy, Naomi Campbell and a bunch of other people. Everyone was having a good time together. Maybe a little bit of friendly flirting, but no scandal here."

Oh, you're no fun.

And baby makes twee... Zooey expecting first child

Zooey Deschanel GETTY IMAGES

The nice thing about all these celebrities having lifestyle websites is that they can handle all their big life announcements themselves.

Much like Blake Lively did last October on Preserve, New Girl star Zooey Deschanel has used Hello Giggles to reveal that she is pregnant. Deschanel and boyfriend Jacob Pechenik are expecting their first child together this summer.

"Jacob and I are over the moon. We are so excited to meet our little one," Deschanel says in a statement.

As of press time, there was no word on how chunky the baby's bangs would eventually be.

Well, that's creepy! Jen on Billy Bob's to-do list

Everyone has goals, dreams, items on their bucket list, things they really want to do. For a newly minted Golden Globe winner, that includes Jennifer Aniston. Billy Bob Thornton did a bit of an overshare backstage at the Globes when Access Hollywood challenged him to a game of Would You Rather, pitting celebrities against each other to vie for the Fargo star's amorous attention. Asked to choose between Reese Witherspoon and Aniston, Thornton quickly replied, "Jennifer Aniston, lifelong goal. That's all I'm saying." A simple yes or no would have sufficed.

He even doubled down when presented with a choice between Aniston and Keira Knightley, saying, "Jennifer Aniston. How many times does it take you to get this through your head?"

The creepiness of his fixation aside, he at least gets high comedy marks for his response to the options of Bill Murray and Christoph Waltz: "I don't even know what the second one is, so Bill Murray." The second one, Mr. Thornton, is someone who has more Oscars than you. Just so you know.

Billy Bob Thornton, Jennifer Aniston GETTY IMAGES

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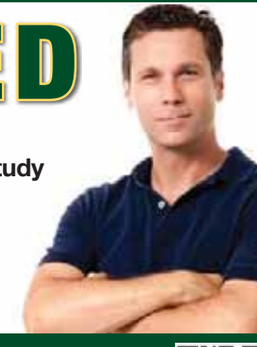

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Scott Foley CONTRIBUTED

Scott Foley knows just how to dispose of a body

Q&A. Don't worry, Scandal actor says it was only for research for his new movie, Let's Kill Ward's Wife

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Scott Foley knows you're not the biggest fan of his character on Scandal, so he wasn't all that concerned with turning viewers off by playing the character who does the deed in Let's Kill Ward's Wife, a dark comedy he also wrote and directed. Just be careful how much you criticize him, since he's exceptionally well-versed in how to dispose of human bodies now.

I'm always a fan of darker humour, but it can be risky.
We knew going into this that there were going to be a lot of people who don't feel that way with this.

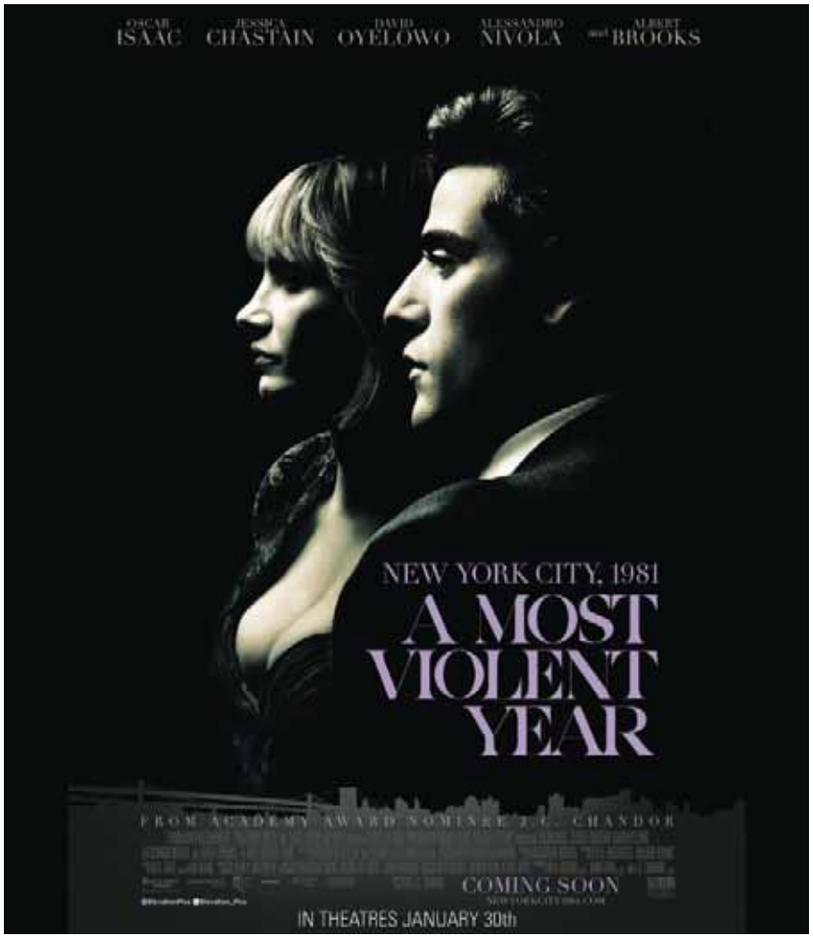
How do you prepare yourself for those kinds of reactions?
I'm sort of used to it at this point. I knew going into this that you can please all of the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, right? But you can't please all of the people all the time. There's something liberating about that. You like it? You don't? OK. I'm happy with the film that I made, and if you get it, I think you're going to enjoy it. And if you don't, it's not for you.

I've heard the secret is to just figure out what you want to see and make that.
Mmmhmm, yeah. And you hope at some point, someone out there is like, "Hey, I kind of like what he likes, too!" Or else you stop making films.

It's interesting that you can find so much sympathy for a character that up and decides to kill his best friend's wife.
That was a challenge, especially now with the NFL and all this talk of domestic violence, it's just the wrong time. But the great thing is we sort of reversed the roles. The domestic abuse is being perpetrated on the gentleman this time instead of the woman in the relationship, and how his friends decide to take things into their own hands — whether it be accidental or on purpose — is a different story. But it was a hard balance between the gruesome and the heavy stuff and trying to find moments of levity.

And I'm assuming you picked up some interesting new skill sets while researching this script.
I probably spent about two days on the Internet going to these deep, dark websites that maybe me and one other weird guy had ever gone to and learning all the ways to dismember a body, to decompose a body, to get rid of a body — how to do it so the dogs don't smell the scent. One of the things that I found that I didn't use in the film is that if you put a body in a bag with kitty litter, it'll turn into jelly in a month. So f—ed up, but true. I'm surprised no one knocked on my door going, "Hey, what are you doing, Mr. Foley?"

It does still seem like an odd thing to become an expert in.
Yeah, but you've got to specialize. You've got to focus. And if that's your thing, that's your thing.



Cult TV. Twin Peaks revival includes return of Kyle MacLachlan

The American actor will reprise his role as Agent Dale Cooper in new episodes of Twin Peaks, the cult detective series presented by David Lynch and Mark Frost in 1990. Showtime will air this new season in 2016, 25 years after the last episode aired on ABC.

Confirmed by Lynch himself last October, the Twin Peaks revival will be a miniseries with nine episodes, all written by the filmmaker in collaboration with Frost, who co-developed the original series.

A quarter century after the high school student Laura Palmer was found dead by a lake in Twin Peaks, FBI agent Dale Cooper will return to the strange town for a new investigation set in the present day. Kyle MacLachlan will return to this role, which helped to launch his career at the time. Since then, the actor has confirmed his talent in several series, including Sex and the City, Desperate Housewives, How I Met Your Mother, The Good Wife and Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

First broadcast by ABC from April to June in 1990, Twin Peaks regularly makes its way into TV critics' lists of the most influential shows of all time.

Kyle MacLachlan GETTY IMAGES

Like many of Lynch's films, the cult series combines suspense with humour and reality with fantasy, often through the juxtaposition of dreamlike elements with everyday settings. AFP

Netflix

House of Cards is back Feb. 27

Netflix has released the trailer for the political drama's coming season.

Between the harrowing soundtrack, rapid succession of images and serious expressions on the characters' faces, the trailer suggests the next season of House of Cards will be more intense and chaotic than ever.

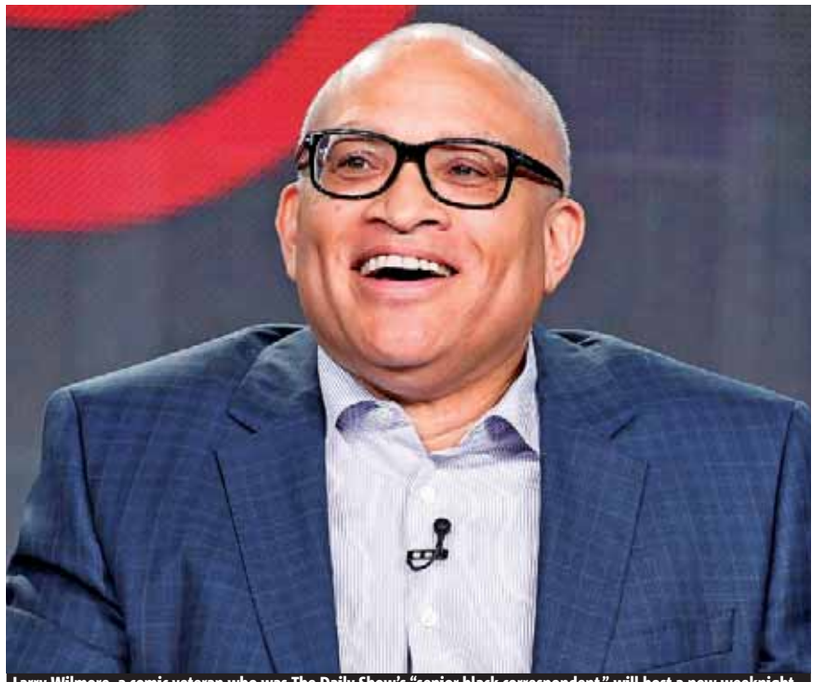
"You wanna know what takes real courage? Holding it all together when the stakes are this high," insists President Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) in a strict, perhaps even threatening tone.

First Lady Claire Underwood (Robin Wright) concludes the trailer with the line "We're murderers, Francis." One wonders whether she is reminding her husband of events in the past or referring to incidents to come in this new season.

The third season of House of Cards received a welcome boost Sunday, when Kevin Spacey won the Golden Globe for best actor in a drama for his performance in the previous season. AFP

What will come after The Daily Show? The Nightly Show, duh

Comedy. Larry Wilmore is preparing to replace The Colbert Report with new half-hour series



Larry Wilmore, a comic veteran who was The Daily Show's "senior black correspondent," will host a new weeknight show to replace The Colbert Report. Unlike Colbert, he won't be playing a character. GETTY IMAGES

Larry Wilmore says his Nightly Show, launching on Comedy Central later this month, will be like a hybrid of The Daily Show and Politically Incorrect, combining comic observations and a topical panel discussion.

Wilmore's half-hour show, which will air at 11:30 p.m. EST on weeknights following Stewart's Daily Show, is replacing The Colbert Report, as Stephen Colbert is headed to CBS. Unlike the star of The Colbert Report, Wilmore will be himself, and not play a character.

"It may be comic, it may be provocative," Wilmore told reporters at a television conference. "Who knows? It will go where it goes."

Celebrities will be part of the mix, "but they won't be hawking books and movies," he said. He'll begin test shows next week in anticipation of a Jan. 19 premiere.

Wilmore, 53, is a comic veteran with extensive experience both onstage and behind the scenes, most recently developing the ABC comedy Black-ish. He's known to Comedy Central viewers as the "senior black correspondent" on The Daily Show. He jumped at the chance for the new show when Stewart suggested it, somewhat surprised at his age to be getting the opportunity.

It was initially called The Minority Report, but was changed after Fox raised complications because it is preparing a show with the same name. Meet the Rest was briefly considered before they settled on The Nightly Show.

"If you're watching The Daily Show and it feels like it's getting a little darker, it's probably The Nightly Show," he said.

Some 417 people applied to be writers on The Nightly Show before Wilmore and executive producer Rory Albanese settled on 10. Wilmore said he was looking for people who would challenge him.

"I already have my voice," he said. "I don't want to have a roomful of people who are going to reflect me."

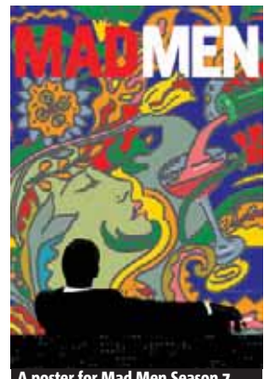
Quoted

"It may be comic, it may be provocative. Who knows? It will go where it goes." Larry Wilmore

Pressed by a reporter on how he might find comedy on a difficult week like this, with the attacks and hostage-taking in France, Wilmore said, "They're starting to kill satirists just as a brother is launching his show. The timing of that is a little bit scary." For some stories, he said the best thing may be to wait to gain perspective.

Starting his show on Martin Luther King Day, Wilmore joked that "I had a dream that a brother needed to work on that day." Truthfully, he said there was no special significance to the launch date, just that it made sense to begin on a Monday when The Daily Show has a fresh show to precede it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airdates. Final Mad Men episodes to start in April



A poster for Mad Men Season 7. CONTRIBUTED

The climax to acclaimed U.S. drama Mad Men will begin on April 5 when the first of the final seven episodes airs, AMC television has announced.

The seventh and last season of the hit show chronicling the lives of New York advertising executives in the 1960s officially got under way last year, with seven episodes being shown.

But the last half of the season was held over until 2015, with the final seven episodes now confirmed to begin screening in April.

"What an incredible journey this has been. I take great pride in what the entire Mad Men team was able to create episode after episode, season after season," executive producer and creator Matthew Weiner said in a statement cited by several entertainment news media.

"We sincerely thank the fans for joining us on this ride, and hope it has meant as much to them as it has to us."

First aired in 2007, Mad Men has emerged as one of the most successful shows of the past decade, adored by critics worldwide and winning a clutch of awards both in the United States and overseas.

It has won the Emmy for outstanding drama series no fewer than four times and has twice been crowned best international show at the British Academy Television Awards. AFP

Canadian content

Mommy, Orphan Black lead nods for screen awards

Mommy and Orphan Black lead the pack for this year's Canadian Screen Awards with 13 nominations apiece.

Mommy, about a widowed mother and her troubled teenage son, is up for best picture and best direction for Montreal's Xavier Dolan.

Meanwhile, Space's sci-fi clone hit Orphan Black is nominated for best TV drama series and best actress for star Tatiana Maslany.

Other big contenders include David Cronenberg's dark comedy film Maps to the Stars with 11 nominations. Scoring 10 nominations apiece were the Bravo TV series 19-2, HBO Canada's Call Me Fitz and the CBC's Mr. D. The Canadian Screen Awards honour homegrown film, television and digital media in 128 categories.

Comedy star Andrea Martin will host the show in Toronto on March 1. The show will air live on CBC-TV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Matthew Perry, left, will attempt to return to TV fame in The Odd Couple this February. CLIFF LIPSON/CBS

First look. Clip from revamp of The Odd Couple released

CBS has revealed footage from The Odd Couple a month before it premieres the show. A new 30-second video features the two stars, Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon.

A remake of the classic 1970s comedy series, The Odd Couple is about two divorced men sharing a Manhattan apartment. Soundtracked by a riff on Naughty by Nature's OPP, the trailer focuses on the roommates' diametrically opposed personalities. While Felix Unger is extremely tidy and organized, Oscar Madison is just the opposite.

Thomas Lennon (We're the Millers) plays the new Felix, co-starring with former Friends star Perry as the next-generation Oscar.

The Odd Couple may allow Perry to finally return to small-screen success in a major role, something he has yet to achieve since Friends ended in 2004. The actor also starred in Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, Mr. Sunshine and Go On, three comedies that were quickly cancelled. AFP

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We'll miss you, good people of Pawnee: Bidding farewell to Parks and Recreation

Final season. Can we really live in a world with no more quotes from Ron Swanson? We'll just have to try

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

Co-workers who actually like each other

- The cubicle drones of The Office often seemed to be living in a state of barely concealed distaste for each other, but Parks and Recreation has generally gone in the opposite direction, with the exception of poor Jerry. Or Gary. Or possibly Barry, by this point.
- As different as the various Parks department employees are, they've always been supportive of each other's endeavours, from Donna investing in the Snakehole Lounge with Tom to the way everyone pulled together for Leslie's ill-fated city councilwoman campaign.

The sad day is finally upon us: We must now begin saying goodbye to Leslie Knope and the parks department on Parks and Recreation. The show started its final season last night, and while it has come close to being cancelled nearly every season it's been on, that doesn't make the prospect of saying farewell any easier.

Parks and Recreation found a devoted audience who loved its optimistic humour and careful creation of a fictional but delightful town. Here are the five things we'll miss most about the show.

The town of Pawnee, Ind.
We may not have known much about humble Pawnee at the beginning, but we've all grown to love the residents of the town (which we all know is First in Friendship, Fourth in Obesity).

And who hasn't enjoyed learning about the colourful Pawnee city mottos? There was the time they got taken over by the cult of Zorp, or the time they claimed to be the birthplace of Julia Roberts, then got sued for it. Mostly, we'll miss the town's historical murals, each of which is more offensive than the last.

Leslie Knope herself
At its best, the show found great ways to translate Amy Poehler's high-energy screen presence into a character who was both hugely dorky and inspirational.

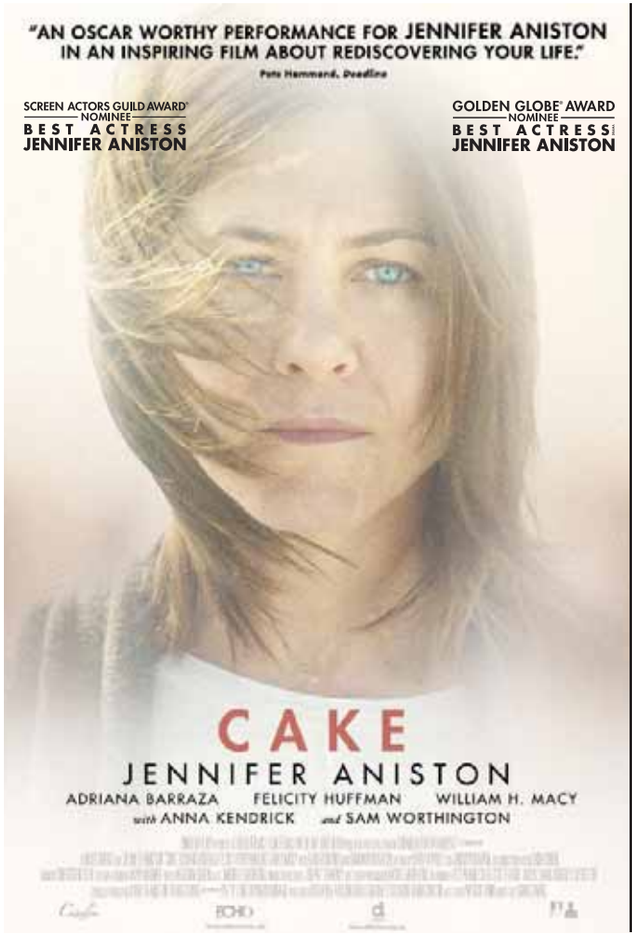
Sure, she loved organizing everything in binders, and went overboard in every facet of her life, but Leslie was that rare comedic creation whose arc combined personal and professional achievements in a way that made everyone root for her.

The couples
Remember the episode when April and Andy got married on a whim, only a few episodes after starting to date? It's unlikely anyone would have guessed those two would be the most stable relationship on the show, but the writers always found cute, funny ways to make them work as a couple, despite Andy's cluelessness and April's hatred of, well, everything.

And while we're happy Ron found love with Lucy Lawless' Diane, we're sad we won't get to see any new adventures between Ron and Tammy, because Nick Offerman and Megan Mullally brought just the right degree of crazy every time they were onscreen together.

It always warmed your heart
Parks has gotten a lot of credit over the years for the warmth of its humour. The show makes you laugh at the antics of its characters, but never sneers at them or asks viewers to mock them. Sure, we knew most of Tom's business schemes were doomed to failure, but he's now started a few successful ones, and no one on the show treated him like he was a fool for dreaming of a life beyond Pawnee. And as outlandish as Leslie's behaviour got, the people around her always loved her for it.

Amy Poehler as Leslie Knope on Parks and Recreation. CONTRIBUTED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3. Take an empty water bottle through security, then fill it up on the other side. You don't need to pay $5 for a bottle of water.
4. Coffee up at home.
5. Bring foods that are easy to pack — sushi, sandwiches — and skip departure lounge food.
6. Avoid the shops! Bring books, magazines and sundries like batteries with you. DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Tool

Sunscreen app

Heading south? Load this free app onto your phone to keep sunburns to a minimum. You enter your location, skin type and the SPF of your lotion. The app then detects the UV Index rating of your sunny spot and sets a timer to alert you when it's time to apply more sunscreen. It also comes with info on health precautions to help you avoid the dreaded lobster look and other more serious problems. Free for Android and iOS.
DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Deals

Cuba for less

Cuba has always been the cheap and cheerful route for a week at the beach. Sunwing is making it even more attractive with deals on a few all-inclusive Cuban resorts they've recently started to work with, including up to 45 per cent off the new, 530-room Memories Holguin Beach Resort in Holguin. Get up to 20 per cent off at the new five-star Royalton Hicacos Resort & Spa in Varadero and up to 25 per cent off at the new Starfish Cayo Santa Maria, which is gigantic at 1,300+ rooms. Visit Sunwing.ca.
DOUG WALLACE/METRO

National Geographic explores the tourism business

Thatched bungalows in the rainforest of Costa Rica and luxurious tents in the Australian Outback are among some of the properties chosen to form National Geographic's new collection of boutique hotels and lodges. Launched as the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, properties chosen were judged on factors such as design and character, guest experience and quality of service, and sustainability practices. The initial collection includes 24 lodges that span the world, from Australia to Canada, and includes Newfoundland's Fogo Island Inn (pictured above). Special NatGeo packages are also being launched within the group that offer add-ons such as a private sunset wildlife cruise at the Nimmo Bay Wilderness Lodge in B.C., or a private tour and outing with an on-site scientist at The Brando in French Polynesia. TEXT AND PHOTO: AFP

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tico.ca Cuba

Bucket list

Palm Springs, California

Now's the time to start planning Palm Springs, so you can nab one of the cool mid-century modern bungalows for a week by the pool, before they book up. This little resort community of 45,000 people 175 kilometres east of Los Angeles is a great spot to relax and explore, golf, play tennis, and generally soak up the Hollywood playground vibe. If it was good enough for Frank Sinatra, it's good enough for you. Both the Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals are big draws in early spring, and there are numerous film festivals throughout the year. Check out VisitPalmSpings.com for listings, along with airbnb.com and vrbo.com.

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ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
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The lighthouse on Klein-Curaçao is a spectacular site. PETER REMUS/METRO

If you're looking to sunbathe all day long, the island of Curaçao may not be your best choice. But if you're a snorkeller, scuba diver, foodie, history junkie, golfer or culture vulture, this former Dutch colony — located approximately 60 kilometres off the coast of Venezuela — is the perfect vacation destination.

The unique capital of Willemstad is a bustling port city that earned UNESCO World Heritage status in 1997 due to its incredible collection of Dutch colonial architecture. Picture the unique gabled houses of Amsterdam painted in vibrant pastels and peppered with palm trees. The vibe is strongly Dutch, but the influences of Spanish, English and the local Papiamento people are also evident in all aspects of life including the music and cuisine. The food at the Gouverneur de Rouville reflects the cosmopolitan makeup of the island and the service, ambiance and views at this charming heritage building overlooking the harbour are outstanding.

The island's beaches, a mix of both public and private access, are small and tend to be crowded. However, for snorkellers and divers, beaches such as Playa Kalki and Playa Lagun make great welcome mats to an entire ocean of coral and exotic fish.

Devoid of permanent populations, the tiny neighbouring island of Klein-Curaçao offers a long stretch of white sand beach as well as an abandoned lighthouse and two shipwrecks to explore. It's well worth the two-hour boat trip there and back, but be warned: The sometimes rocky voyage is not for people with sensitive stomachs.

Although home to American chain hotels such as Marriott and Hilton, the local Kura Hulanda properties make for a more interesting accommodation choice. The Village & Spa is a boutique hotel in downtown Willemstad occupying 65 intricately restored buildings, which showcase the city's Dutch architectural history. On the west end of the island, the Kura Hulanda Lodge is a stunning resort, with a world-class reef just off shore.

I travelled to Curaçao as part of a large group, so we opted to rent a villa, which was not only more affordable than most of the hotels, but it gave us the chance to live like locals. We made several of our dinners from bounty scored at the supermarket and the city's floating market, and got to experience the Jan Sofat neighbourhood; going for walks and on the recommendation of the villa's owner Anne-Marie Tap, we joined 3,000 other people for the annual New Year's Day swim.

Explore the winding trails of Wales

Hiking haven. This rugged country offers both epic journeys and leisurely walks

Looking for a hiking vacation that's off the beaten track but guaranteed to delight with an array of trails for all skill sets, amazing views, quaint accommodations, a wealth of history and top-notch cuisine?

Consider Wales.

The mountainous country, part of the United Kingdom, is bordered by England in the east, the Irish Sea to the north and west and the Bristol Channel in the south.

There are several world-class hiking regions, all distinct, all worth seeing, and situated close enough to one another that most of Wales can be explored in as little as a week via rental car.

There are no direct Canadian flights to Wales, but fly into any of the major London airports and connect to either Cardiff, Swansea or Liverpool.

From Liverpool, it's a quick jaunt into the northern reaches of Wales, where you can start your hiking vacation in the Llandudno and Colwyn Bay area.

The hiking highlight of the region is the Great Orme, a coastal landmark more than 200 metres above sea level with Stone Age origins.

There's a circular walk around the headland that starts and finishes at the summit, providing spectacular views of Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea, the Carneddau mountains, the island of Anglesey and the Menai Strait — a stretch of which is called the "swellies" by locals due to its hazardous whirlpools and surges.

History lovers shouldn't miss Conwy Castle, built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales between 1283 and 1289. It's among the best-preserved medieval fortifications in Britain, and visitors can wander its battlements at will.

From Colwyn Bay, veer southwest into the grandeur of Snowdonia.

The famously stunning region is dotted with picturesque villages. Stop at Betws-y-coed on your drive in, an impossibly pretty riverside hamlet with a cosy pub located at the Ty Gwyn Hotel and featuring an excellent menu. The local steamed mussels and salt-marsh lamb shouldn't be missed.

A hiker takes in the view at Snowdonia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

To work off your lunch, there are trails for hikers of all capabilities. Expert climbers can take on the seven-hour hike up Mount Snowdon, the highest peak in south Britain, via the Crib's Goch knife-edge ridge, but there are plenty of other shorter, less hair-raising hikes through the dramatic hills of the region.

From Snowdonia, veer back northwest to Anglesey. The highlight of the island is the spectacular South Stack Lighthouse, perched on another rugged, windswept isle joined to Anglesey by an aluminum bridge and open for exploration by tourists. There are plenty of hiking trails in the area, including an hour-long hike that starts in Breakwater Country Park in nearby Holyhead and leads to South Stack. The Anglesey Coastal Path also passes by South Stack.

The only possible downside to a Welsh hiking vacation? The rain. Pack rain gear, because all-day sunny hiking weather is rarely a guarantee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

Check out the Visit Wales website at visitwales.com for accomodation options, including cottage rentals, working farms, camper vans and hiking recommendations. Wales Tourists Online (walestouristsonline.co.uk) also has an extensive database of accommodations options.

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The Desert Botanical Garden has the largest collection of cacti in North America.

Phoenix boasts some of the world's best rock climbing. VISIT PHOENIX PHOTOS

Gateway to the great outdoors

Phoenix. Urban sophistication meets thrilling adventure

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Phoenix is one of the sunniest cities in the U.S. — but it's not just for snowbirds looking to escape the harsh Canadian winter.

As the gateway to the Grand Canyon, Phoenix is set against a backdrop of rugged mountains in one of the lushest deserts in the world. But it also has a sophisticated urban scene, with boutique hotels and luxury spas, plenty of nightlife, and some of the best southwestern food around.

"It's a wonderful place for our northern friends to thaw out and leave their parkas behind," said Douglas MacKenzie, media relations director with Visit Phoenix.

The city's dependable sunshine makes outdoor activities a way of life — whether rappelling into a wet canyon or enjoying a craft cocktail on a poolside patio.

In the fall and winter, the climate is ideal for hiking and biking (in the spring, blooming wildflowers carpet the desert).

Hike the Cholla Trail on Camelback Mountain or the numerous trails in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. Or check out the views from a hot air balloon, on a Jeep tour or while riding a horse.

While there are plenty of culinary options, Phoenix is known for its authentic southwestern and Mexican fare. Kai is the only Five Diamond Native American restaurant in the world, while the locals head to Los Dos Molinos for no-fuss traditional Mexican.

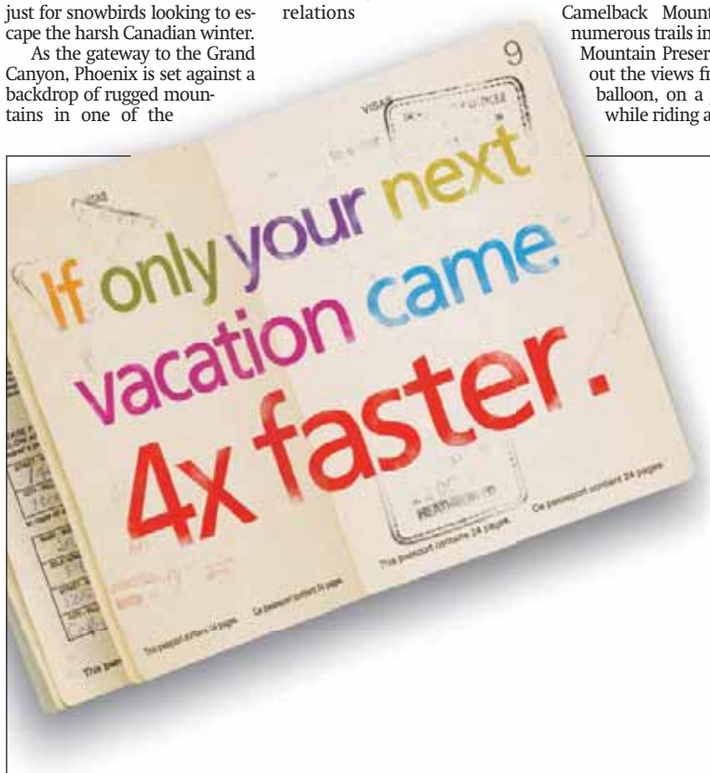
Phoenix offers a range of hip boutique hotels and luxury resorts with spas and golf courses, but there's also the unique option of staying at a dude ranch for a true cowboy experience. Or step into luxury at the Arizona Biltmore (Frank Lloyd Wright served as consulting architect).

"We have 62,000 hotel rooms in the Greater Phoenix Area and one to fit everyone's budget from economical to five-star luxury," said MacKenzie. Phoenix is also known for its spa scene, offering everything from mud wraps to hot golf ball massages.

There's also plenty worth seeing around town. "The Heard Museum has the largest collection of Native American artifacts (and) the Desert Botanical Garden has the largest collection of cacti in North America," said MacKenzie.

Unique adventures

- Phoenix has an emerging craft beer scene, with a dozen or so breweries and more than 60 wineries in the area. Imbibe on a craft brewery tour or a "water to wine" kayaking tour where you paddle between three different vineyards.
- Arizona offers some of the world's top canyoneering. Several operators offer adventures for different skill levels — from bouldering and rappelling to exploring wet canyons.



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Take chili beyond ground beef and beans

Mixed Veggie and Steak Chili. This refreshing take on the classic hearty dish doesn't take much time or effort to make

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Try making chili with steak next time you have a hankering during the week. It's just as easy as using ground beef but has a chunkier texture, which is a nice change.

You can use stir-fry strips if you don't want to slice the steak yourself, but slicing takes no time at all.

Use your favourite fresh peppers or mushrooms, but to make this in a snap, why not check what's available in your freezer and bulk up the pot with a variety of frozen veg?

Pick up a few bags when they are on sale and then you will be ready to whip up this dish or serve up a variety of veggies alongside your favourite weeknight meal.

Keeping a bag of frozen mixed vegetables in your freezer is also an easy way to pump up your soups with flavour and texture, not to mention extra servings of vegetables!

This chili is perfect served up with a crunchy salad.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Directions

1. In large shallow saucepan or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat and brown steak. Remove to plate.

2. Add onion, garlic, chili powder, oregano and cumin and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in tomatoes, frozen vegetables, beans and tomato paste; bring to a boil. Stir in steak; reduce heat and simmer for about 20 minutes or until chili is thickened.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp (5 ml) canola oil
- 1 sirloin grilling steak (about 12 oz/375 g), in 1/2 inch (1 cm) pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chili powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) each dried oregano leaves and ground cumin
- 1 can (28 oz/796 ml) diced tomatoes
- 2 cups (500 ml) mixed frozen vegetables, such as broccoli, cauliflower and carrots
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) tomato paste

This recipe serves four. EMILY RICHARDS

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Give your portfolio a noticeable pick-me-up

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CELINE TARRANT
TalentEgg.ca

Many professionals make the mistake of thinking that they don't need a portfolio because they don't have anything to put in one. Here's how to put together a professional portfolio that will help you showcase your work, highlight your skill set, and can serve as a valuable career planning tool.

What is it? What should you include in it?
This is not a resumé; it's a collection of your professional achievements. Unlike a resumé, there's no page limit, so it should include all the projects you've worked on, recommendations, reference letters, awards, side projects, publications, a listing of conferences and events you have attended or spoken at, courses and workshops, and anything else you feel is relevant to your professional life.

Why do it?
• To jog your memory (and your manager's): Simply put, most people are terrible at remembering things. Unless you write down and reflect on relevant and important experiences, it's easy to forget about them.

If you forget about your own achievements, what are the chances a potential employer will remember? It's important to document and showcase what you have accomplished so you can communicate more effectively with your manager about how you have contributed to the team, and demonstrate ways you have gone above and beyond.

To help you land your next job:
As you advance your career, this tool should also make it easier for you to quickly gather and comment on relevant work experience. For example, if you're in PR and applying for a marketing job, you should be able to look to your portfolio and very easily gather all the marketing-related projects you have worked on and identify the overlapping skill sets because you have carefully organized and tracked them over the years.

Career planning and development:
As you go through the exercise of putting together your portfolio, and continue to add to it over time, patterns will start to emerge. Maybe you notice that all of your projects have been internal and you need some more client-facing experience.

Or that you've been to five social media workshops this year, and you still haven't put up your hand to run the next Twitter campaign. It should help you identify where you are over- or under-indexed in certain areas, highlight gaps in your skill set, and draw your attention to opportunities for personal development.

Putting it together

How you actually collect everything and organize it is up to you.

- Maybe it's a formal hard-copy document that you use publicly and share with others. Maybe it's just an informal folder on your computer where you keep relevant documents for your eyes only.
- However you choose to do it, the thing that matters is that you are keeping track of all the amazing work you are doing, and keeping it up to date and relevant.
- Set a recurring calendar date with yourself each month and commit to revisiting your portfolio to reflect on your experiences so far, update it with new information, and plan for the month ahead.

You will often need references from your manager when looking for a new job. You can use a portfolio to help guide your manager to highlight what is important to the new job, not just what they can remember you worked on. ISTOCK

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Packing your lunch like a professional

Career. Six tips that will help you prepare homemade, healthy lunches simply and swiftly

RIANA TOPAN
TalentEgg.ca

Having an ammo of healthy snacks at the ready will help to curb your cravings throughout the day. ISTOCK

Is healthy eating one of your resolutions for 2015? A great way to achieve that is by packing a lunch for school or work. It will save you a lot of money in the long run, too. Here's how to get started.

Plan ahead

Plot out four weeks' worth of meal ideas in a calendar or schedule. Choose options you enjoy, that you can make in advance and that are easy to transport. Repeat your plan every month, and mix it up when you get tired of certain meals, or to reflect what you have in your kitchen.

Sketching out your meals for the month will take away the stress of trying to come up with new ideas all the time. It will also mean you know exactly what you need to buy each week to prepare your lunches, saving you time in the grocery store. If you're trying to save money or prefer to eat locally, adjust your meal plan seasonally, and check what's on sale at the start of each month to stock up on non-perishables, then incorporate those into your meal plan for the next four weeks.

Prepare meals in batches

You can save time by preparing multiple meals at once, because it cuts down on the overall time you have to spend washing, chopping, cooking, portioning and cleaning up. Block off a couple of hours each week to prepare your lunches for the next five days (Sundays are great if your schedule allows).

If you don't already have one, invest in a Tupperware set that includes different sizes for your main meal, snacks, sauces and accompaniments. Having four to six good-sized containers will help you pre-portion several meals. Opt for glass containers or BPA-free plastic.

Strive for balance

Although you should stick to meals that don't take long to prepare, you don't want to sacrifice nutrition. Ideally, your lunch should be proportioned as follows: half your plate should be vegetables and/or fruit, a quarter should be protein and the other quarter should be grains. Keeping this in mind means you can toss together a balanced meal that will keep you satisfied until dinner, as long as you choose healthy options. Use what you have on hand; try beans, legumes, nuts, seeds and lean meats for your protein, whole grains like brown rice, quinoa, and whole wheat noodles for your grains and a variety of fresh produce for the fruit/vegetable portion of your meal.

Keep your kitchen well stocked

Always make sure you have the ingredients for a quick go-to lunch in case you don't have time to go shopping or spend more than a few minutes preparing your next midday meal.

Sandwiches are great when you're pressed for time, so keep a loaf of whole wheat bread in your fridge or freezer and have nut butters, jams, vegetables, cheese, hummus or cold cuts on hand. Having a well-stocked kitchen ensures you're less likely to run into a situation where making a meal at home isn't an option. If everything you need to make a healthy, homemade lunch is already right in front of you, you'll be less tempted to buy food out.

Hurried and hungry

Have ready-made meals on hand

- We all have days when we're especially tight on time, so be prepared for even the busiest of days by keeping at least 2-3 frozen or non-perishable meals that you can pack for lunch as a last resort. Having a few homemade meals in your freezer is great, otherwise pre-made soups, chili or pasta dishes work well.
- Try to always have at least a couple of fresh items in your fridge so you can round out the meal with a couple of servings of vegetables or fruit. It's also a good idea to keep nutritious snacks at your desk (like fruit, trail mix, granola bars, brown rice cakes, whole grain crackers and nut butter) so that healthy options are always within reach whenever you get hungry.

Phenom solid on, off pitch: Coaches

Cyle Larin. Soccer player from Brampton expected to go early in the MLS SuperDraft

Canada's Cyle Larin, front, seen here battling Ilia Milanov of Bulgaria last May in Austria, is expected to be a top pick in the MLS SuperDraft. RONALD ZAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ask coaches and GMs about Cyle Larin and they'll tell you he's a big talent with a big future.

But the 19-year-old Canadian forward, who could go No. 1 in Thursday's MLS SuperDraft, also wins kudos for his demeanour off the field.

"He's a great kid; we were very fortunate to have him" said UConn coach Ray Reid, who worked with Larin for two seasons. "As much as I'm going to miss him as a player, if you want the truth I'm going to miss him more as a guy. He's a very good guy."

"He's a terrific lad, first and foremost," echoed Canadian under-20 coach Rob Gale. "He's a very level-headed kid."

Orlando City SC has first crack Thursday at the six-foot-two 190-pounder from Brampton. Fellow expansion team New York City FC picks second, ahead of the Montreal Impact, San Jose Earthquakes and Portland Timbers.

With three picks in the first round — sixth, ninth and 11th — Toronto FC will be an active player whether it opts to trade some of its selections or not.

The Vancouver Whitecaps pick 13th. It's the lowest selection the team has had since joining MLS and, with five picks in the third and fourth rounds, the Whitecaps will be looking for some diamonds in the rough.

The first two rounds go Thursday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Rounds 3 and 4 will be done by telephone Jan. 20.

Larin will learn his future before Canada's game against El Salvador on Thursday at the CONCACAF U-20 Championship in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Larin scored 23 goals and added six assists in 39 career games for Connecticut.

He was named American Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year in 2013 after collecting 14 goals and three assists. This season, he won AAC Offensive Player of the Year honours with a conference-best 0.56 goals a game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian content

While star teenager Cyle Larin is expected to play a starring role at Thursday's MLS SuperDraft, other Canadians are working hard to get their name called at the podium.

- Canadian midfielder Jaineil Hoilett and defenders Skylar Thomas and Nikola Paunic attended the MLS Combine in Florida.
- Defender Jordan Murrell, a native of Markham who played alongside Thomas at Syracuse University, was not at the Combine but has drawn attention.

CFL

Argos sign King to an extension, release Carter

The Toronto Argonauts returned a key element of their offensive line while giving the lone remaining defensive starter from their 2012 Grey Cup-winning squad an early start to free agency.

The Argos re-signed international offensive lineman Jarriel King to a contract extension Tuesday. King was scheduled to become a free agent Feb. 10.

So was defensive back Jalil Carter, who started last season as the lone returnee from the Toronto defence that anchored the club's 35-22 win over Calgary in the 100th Grey Cup game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Bills hire Roman to head defence, part with Schwartz

Greg Roman is in as the Buffalo Bills' new offensive co-ordinator, and Jim Schwartz is out as defensive co-ordinator.

Both moves were expected and announced by the Bills on Tuesday, a day after Rex Ryan took over as coach.

Schwartz's contract was terminated after one season in Buffalo, allowing him to pursue other jobs.

Roman spent the previous four seasons serving as the San Francisco 49ers offensive co-ordinator and shares the same run-first philosophy as Ryan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Source confirms Defoe's TFC departure

According to a report, Jermain Defoe's tenure with Toronto FC will end after just one season. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The Jermain Defoe transfer saga is finally over, with Toronto FC selling the England star striker to Sunderland.

A source confirmed the deal, which ends Defoe's roller-coaster year in Major League Soccer.

Toronto had been looking to send Defoe to Sunderland, with U.S. international forward Jozy Altidore and cash coming back to TFC.

That could still happen. But Altidore's return to MLS will have to go through the league's allocation process that governs the return of players to the league.

Sunderland (3-7-11) currently stands 16th in the English Premier League, one point above the relegation zone.

Boom followed by bust

11

With Toronto FC, Jermain Defoe scored three goals in his first two games and had 11 in the first 16 games of the 2014 campaign, despite missing three matches due to injury — but he did not score again.

Defoe's future has been cloudy since Toronto turned down a franchise-record transfer fee from an English team at the end of the summer transfer window.

That turned into a soap opera, and Toronto execs were determined to resolve the matter in the January transfer window before Defoe's return date of Jan. 17.

Toronto finished the season with an 11-15-8 record and failed to make the playoffs for the eighth straight year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hands up if you're ready for DeRozan to return

All-star DeMar DeRozan, right, is expeceted to return to the lineup this week with Kyle Lowry, left, and the Raptors flagging. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA. Imminent return of 2014 all-star couldn't come at better time, as Raptors struggle for consistency

Deflating without DeMar

12-9

The Raptors are 12-9 in DeMar DeRozan's absence but are 1-4 since the tail-end of the recent West Coast road trip.

The day after a disappointing three-point, 19-turnover loss to the resurgent Detroit Pistons at the ACC, the Raptors stayed off the practice court.

Instead, they studied game film, determining how to tighten up the defence, cut down on turnovers and return to their winning ways. They have lost four of their past five.

Unstated but clearly key was the imminent return of all-star DeMar DeRozan, who will play either Wednesday against the Philadelphia 76ers or Friday against the Atlanta Hawks.

"It could be (Wednesday) or the next game, one of the next two games," coach Dwane Casey said. "The doctors will let him know (Wednesday) but we'll see. I'm sure there'll be minute restrictions. I'll have to check with the doctors on that, but the old rule is if you're in uniform, you're ready to play. Anything that he brings to the table is going to help us in this tough time."

Casey suggested DeRozan's return will be up to the doctors, but there were signs his much-needed comeback should be against the weaker 76ers.

"In film sessions he's been there, he's been practising with the team," Casey said. "He just hasn't been able to play. He's been a leader from that standpoint. Even in film sessions this morning he was vocal and stated some things that he was seeing. He's said he's seeing more from having that time away as he has, more so than when he was in the fray trying to play."

Against the Pistons, the Raptors had 29 assists but also 19 turnovers, a statistic DeRozan's presence should help reduce as the Raptors return to more of a half-court offence, with the opposition having fewer possessions giving the defence a chance to stay energized.

"He brings a calmness for us," Casey said. "Again, we have a 15-man roster to make sure someone steps up and takes that spot, but you can't replace that type of talent. James (Johnson) has done as good a job as we can have, but you can't replace that, so (DeRozan) gives us that extra talent you need to win in this league."

Meanwhile, the team continues to campaign to have point guard Kyle Lowry voted into the Feb. 19 all-star game. Back when it started, it was fun and light-hearted.

The Raptors were atop the East, it was easy pointing out how worthy Lowry was in his quest for the all-star grail. But somehow Lowry's energy drain plus the steady parade of "gunslingers," as Casey called the impressive list of enemy guards that have dominated Toronto lately, has taken the wind out of the campaign's sails.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Missing elements

"He brings post play. He understands our defensive schemes. He gives us a talent out there on the floor."

Raptors head coach Dwane Casey on DeMar DeRozan. Toronto's all-star is expected to return this week, either Wednesday or Friday, with the Raptors mired in their longest losing patch in over a year.

NBA. Garnett suspended, Howard fined after dust up

Kevin Garnett was suspended one game without pay Tuesday by the NBA for headbutting Dwight Howard, who received only a fine when the league ruled he didn't retaliate with a punch.

Howard was fined $15,000, the league announced in saying he pushed Garnett in the neck.

NBA president of basketball operations Rod Thorn determined that Garnett initiated the altercation in the Rockets' 113-99 victory over Brooklyn on Monday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dwight Howard, left, and Kevin Garnett Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Nets owner open to offers, no sale imminent

A spokesperson for Mikhail Prokhorov says the Nets owner is open to offers for the team but that no sale is imminent.

Bloomberg News, citing two people with direct knowledge of the matter, reported Tuesday that Prokhorov had retained Evercore Partners to sell the team.

Prokhorov, a Russian billionaire who bought 80 per cent of the team in 2010, said earlier this season he was willing to listen to offers for a minority share of the club but wouldn't sell his majority stake.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov GETTY IMAGES FILE

Sports in pictures

1 College football. Buckeyes win, Ohio Stadium goal post loses

Ohio State football fans took to the streets after their team's championship victory early Tuesday, yelling and screaming in delight, setting nearly 90 fires and tearing down an Ohio Stadium goal post. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Women's soccer. Judge dismisses U.S. star's domestic violence case

A judge near Seattle has dismissed misdemeanour assault charges against soccer superstar Hope Solo.

Solo, a goalie for the U.S. women's national soccer team and the Seattle Reign professional club, had been charged with two counts of fourth-degree domestic violence assault stemming from a June altercation with her half-sister and 17-year-old nephew. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 MLB. World Series appearance earns Yost another year in K.C.

The AL champion Royals and Ned Yost have agreed on a one-year contract extension that will keep the manager with the franchise through the 2016 season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 World Cup slalom. Hansdotter dominates for 2nd career win

Frida Hansdotter of Sweden dominated a World Cup night slalom on Tuesday in Flachau, Austria, strengthening her position at the top of the discipline standings going into the world championships next month. Loudly cheered by 14,800 spectators, Hansdotter built on her first-run lead to finish in a combined time of 1 minute, 49.59 seconds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SL AWD Premium model shown with Accessory Roof Rail Crossbars▲

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Platinum model shown▲

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2015 Chrysler 200

- **Type.** Four-door, five-passenger midsize sedan
- **Engines.** 2.4-litre four-cylinder (184 hp), 3.6-litre V6 (295)
- **Transmission.** Nine-speed automatic
- **Price.** $22,495 (2.4L), $26,995 (V6) base; $38,995 as tested

Market position

Chrysler's purchase by Fiat has given it access to new engineering, including the Alfa Romeo chassis under the 200. The company is now catching up in the small and midsize markets thanks to these Italian partners.

Points

- The all-wheel system disconnects the rear axle when not required, to improve fuel economy, but sends power to the back wheels whenever needed for extra traction.
- The transmission is shifted by a dial, which frees up console space.
- An optional self-parking feature works on parallel or perpendicular parking spots (and does a very good job).

The interior is lovely, with soft-touch materials and excellent finish.

Interesting features

Eight airbags and active front head restraints are standard issue. Also available are blind-spot monitoring, cross-traffic alert, a self-parking feature, ventilated seats and navigation.

Getting back into the game

Review. Alfa Romeo chassis helps redesigned Chrysler 200 compete in the tough midsize family sedan category

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

Midsize sedans are an important segment, and if you're going to make it here, you've got to bring ammunition.

This has usually been a weak point for Chrysler, but it's finally in the game with the 200 sedan, which has been completely redesigned for 2015. It still has some flaws, but it's finally strong enough to tackle the competitors.

The base engine is a 2.4-litre four-cylinder making 184 horsepower, which is available in all four trim levels (LX, Limited, 200S, and 200C). My tester was optioned with the 3.6-litre V6 that can be added to the S and C trims. Mine also had all-wheel drive, which can be ordered only with the V6.

Both engines use a nine-speed automatic transmission. The ninth gear is a bit of overkill, as I was only ever able to get into it on a flat stretch of highway. Even then, I had to use the steering-wheel paddle shifter to manually engage it, and on the slightest incline, the transmission slipped back into eighth gear.

The engine is smooth, but its published fuel consumption is higher than many of its V6-powered rivals, and in combined driving, I averaged 10.4 L/100 km.

The redesigned interior is lovely, with soft-touch materials, excellent fit and finish, and comfortable seats that are clad in soft leather on the top-line 200C.

A heated steering wheel is standard on that trim, but there's some form over function, here. The wheel is enhanced with a chrome ring, which stays ice cold on winter mornings while the rest of the wheel heats up — defeating the entire purpose.

Small-item storage looks limited at first, but you find a ton of space once you start looking. In addition to a console box and an open bin under the shifter, the entire top of the console slides back, revealing a huge hidden cubby.

The 200 can feel a bit pricey at its upper end, but the mid-range models seem right in line. If you're in the market for midsize sedan, there's a new player in town.

Compare

1 Toyota Camry V6
Base price: $33,650
Also redesigned for 2015, the Camry features more aggressive styling and improved driving dynamics.

2 Kia Optima SX Turbo
Base price:$34,895
Optima's optional turbo-charged engine makes 274 hp and boosts driving fun.

3 Nissan Altima 3.5
Base price: $33,498
Long drives remain comfortable thanks to the zero gravity design of the seats, which reduces fatigue.

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[1]Corolla CE: All in lease payment is semi-monthly for 60 months with $1200 down payment. Includes freight and fees, HST extra. [2]All in finance payment is bi-weekly for 84 months, includes freight and fees, HST extra.[3] All in price includes freight and fees, HST extra. [1]Rav4 LE FWD: All in lease payment is semi-monthly for 60 months with $1300 down payment. Includes freight and fees, HST extra. [2]All in finance payment is bi-weekly for 84 months, includes freight and fees, HST extra. [3]All in price includes freight and fees, HST extra.

[*1] Make no payments for 90 days when you purchase finance a new unregistered 2015 Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services Canada. Offer applies on approved credit to retail customers who purchase and take delivery by February 2, 2015. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 60 days (until the 90th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract.

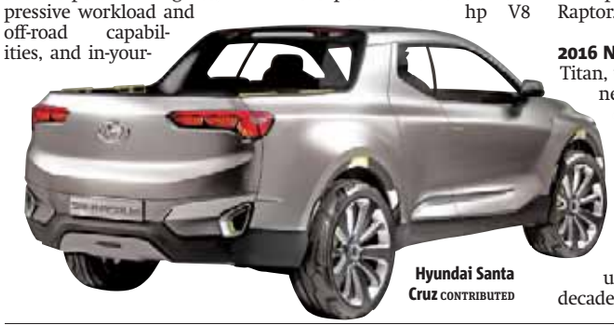
Anti-pickup turns heads at Detroit show

Autopilot. As several traditional pickups are unveiled, Hyundai aims for a different breed of truck buyers

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Pickup trucks were front and centre at this year's auto show in Detroit, proudly showing off their trademark attributes, such as powerful engines, impressive workload and off-road capabilities, and in-your-face attitudes. There was also one odd-looking pickup that wants nothing to do with working for living, racing in the Mexican desert, or scaring young children with aggressive styling. But before I get too deep into Hyundai's Santa Cruz concept, let's run down three traditional pickups that made news in Detroit, to better appreciate the dichotomy between them and the Cruz.

2016 Ford Raptor: This ultimate off-road version of the new-generation Ford F-150 gets its own frame, a wider body and a new turbo V6 purported to be more powerful that the 411-hp V8 that propelled the previous Raptor.



Hyundai Santa Cruz CONTRIBUTED

Toyota's 2016 Tacoma is its first major redesign in more than a decade. MIKE GOETZ

2016 Nissan Titan: An all-new Titan, with a stouter frame, a new Cummins V8 diesel engine good for 310 hp and 550 lb.-ft. of torque, and a massive front grille worthy of a Mack 18-wheeler.

2016 Toyota Tacoma: The first really big update on Tacoma in a decade. I asked Kevin Hunter, head of the Toyota's California design studio, about the desert-racer theme and the very blunt front end. "We like it," he told me. "We just think it's a fist hitting something; that's the way we look at it. Robust. Strong. Powerful. Looks like if you hit something, you wouldn't get any damage on your truck."

All of which couldn't be more different than Hyundai's Santa Cruz concept, which is being promoted as a new truck for a different generation of buyers.

According to Hyundai, those buyers are younger, more female, more urban, and would dearly love a vehicle that is as inexpensive and manoeuvrable around town as a small crossover, but with one major difference: the ability to separate their dirty, wet or smelly cargo from the passenger compartment — cargo such as mountain bikes, camping equipment, firewood, hockey equipment, etc.

Hyundai calls these people urban adventurers. They are committed to their city lifestyle, but also like to get out on the weekend and do stuff outdoors.

Both lifestyles would benefit from a pickup, but they don't want to drive a big, expensive pickup around town the rest of the time.

"We're not trying to attract truck buyers, so max towing, ground-clearance and max payload is not the point at all," said Mark Dipko, head of product planning at Hyundai America.

"Research tells us that not everyone that needs an open bed wants that capability or the trade-offs that come with a traditional pickup."

Hyundai says the Santa Cruz is its most-researched concept ever, and the automaker is convinced it would be a hit with its intended audience. Some cool features on the concept include a 2.0-litre turbo diesel engine, a tailgate extension that makes the bed as long as a midsize pickup bed, mini doors for the rear-seat passengers, and a lockable and rigid tonneau cover.

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City car. Bolt could challenge Tesla as first affordable, long-range electric car

With the introduction of an affordable electric car that can go 320 kilometres on a single charge, General Motors sets up a showdown with Tesla to sell an electric vehicle to the masses. It may also upstage a car of its own.

On Monday, GM unveiled the Chevrolet Bolt, a $30,000 concept car that will probably go on sale in about two years.

The range will make it attractive to many buyers who would not consider a fully electric car for fear of running out of juice. The rollout of the orange compact hatchback eclipsed GM's unveiling of a revamped Chevy Volt at the Detroit auto show.

When the Volt, a plug-in gas-electric hybrid, was introduced in 2007, it was touted as an electric vehicle for everyone.

It could go 60 km on battery power, with a gas generator taking over to end worries of being stranded. But its $38,000 price tag hamstrung sales, even with provincial tax credits of up to $8,500 in Ontario, B.C. and Quebec.

Enter the Bolt, a hatchback with a hefty range and SUV-like cargo area and a price that's about the same as the average selling price of a new vehicle in Canada.

GM's Bolt electric concept was unveiled in Detroit Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Technically, the Bolt is a concept car, but GM plans to start selling a production version sometime in 2017. That offers a challenge to Tesla, which plans to deliver a mass-market, 300-km electric car for about $35,000.

Stuart Norris, director of advanced design for GM in Korea, where much of the car was designed, said some of the car's parts are aluminum, and the seats are thin, all to keep weight down and boost range and performance.

In addition, the low battery pack gives the car a flat floor, making more space for up to four passengers, plus a big rear cargo area.

The Bolt looks like a cross between a Volkswagen Golf and BMW's electric i3.

When it rolled onto a stage at the Chevy exhibit, CEO Mary Barra said, "For most people, this car can be their daily drive."

The car's cargo space and high seating will give it extra appeal — features fuelling a boom in crossover SUV sales.

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Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

Toyota says its new Mirai hydrogen fuel-cell car is just as groundbreaking as the Prius gas-electric hybrid was when it was introduced in 1997. But it will need a network of fuelling stations to really catch on.

Toyota's fuel-cell model could match Prius as a game-changer

Just as Toyota's Prius gasoline-electric hybrid changed the auto industry, so will its recently unveiled 2016 Mirai hydrogen fuel-cell sedan, the company suggests. Bob Carter, the company's head of auto operations, says the Mirai could equal the impact the Prius had on the industry. But it won't happen overnight, he adds, because fuel-cell cars currently lack a nationwide fuelling infrastructure. Even in California where the Mirai will be initially sold, only a handful of fuelling stations exist. However, Carter tells Automotive News that Toyota is expecting 23 new fuelling stations will be built in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas by the time the Mirai launches there later this year. **ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM**

Ghosn thinks electrics are the answer

With global sales of the all-electric Nissan Leaf up by 20 per cent this year, making it the top-selling electric vehicle worldwide, Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn sees almost unlimited opportunity for future plug-in electrics. He says the 200,000 EVs sold globally by Renault-Nissan represents a savings of nearly 200 million litres of petroleum, "fuel that was not extracted, shipped or burned into the atmosphere." In addition to reducing petroleum dependence, EVs increase consumer choice, creating "an important shift" in the marketplace, he says. "As the internal engine monopoly crumbles, consumers will enjoy even more mainstream EV options and range." Their biggest advantage, Ghosn said, is that EVs can tap into existing infrastructure, unlike hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles that require all-new infrastructure.

Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn says battery electrics are better than hydrogen electrics because the infrastructure is already here.

Shift points

- Porsche's technology flagship, the 918 hybrid/hyper sports car, has sold out — with all 918 units spoken for within nine months of sales launch. That's impressive considering it started at a price of $845,000 U.S. ($997,000 Cdn.)
- Californians now buy one plug-in electric car for every two hybrids sold there, says a report in Electric Vehicle News. In the state where the non-plug-in Toyota Prius hybrid is the best-selling car line, battery electric and plug-in hybrids now account for 3.2 per cent of vehicles sold.
- The near global move to produce smaller engines is being advanced by the development of electric turbochargers, which enable instant extra power at lower engine speeds and eliminate the "turbo lag" handicap inherent in mechanical units that are driven by exhaust gases.

Just because a car is enviro-friendly, like Honda's Fit EV, doesn't make it popular — proving that governments can't control the free market.

Several environment-friendly models have been discontinued for 2015

Car models come and car models go. But among those notably not returning for 2015 are ones considered more environmentally friendly than the norm. Discontinued models include Chevrolet's Malibu Eco and Impala Eco, mild hybrids that neither sold well nor were very well promoted; Honda's Fit EV, which was widely seen as a compliance car designed simply to boost CAFE (corporate average fleet economy) numbers; and Toyota's RAV4 EV, as the company turns its focus to hybrids and fuel cells. BMW's 1 Series is also discontinued, but has really just been rebranded as the 2 Series. A new 1 Series is likely to follow one day.

BMW continues to up its plug-in hybrid game

BMW has announced a spate of new plug-in hybrid vehicles, building on its list of plug-ins that will soon include a new X5 tall wagon. The automaker recently launched a long-wheelbase 5 Series sedan for China with a plug-in hybrid powertrain, showed a prototype 3 Series plug-in hybrid sport sedan and announced a new Power eDrive system that makes 670 horsepower. Versions of the new X5's powertrain will spread to other BMW models. The company is thinking beyond its current hybrid system to future generations of plug-in hybrids, suggests Green Car Reports, by using components from its groundbreaking i3 and i8 electric cars to boost their performance.

Tesla nearly doubles Roadster range

Tesla has found a way to give its out-of-production, all-electric Roadster model a range of 640 kilometres on a single charge. In unveiling the Roadster 3.0 update, Tesla said it would have a 40- to 50-per-cent greater range than the original model, resulting from a new, more powerful battery pack, a new aerodynamic body kit that cuts the air 15 per cent more cleanly, new tires with 20 per cent less rolling resistance, improved wheel bearings and less residual brake drag. Tesla will prove its range claims early this year with a non-stop demonstration drive to Los Angeles from San Francisco — a distance of about 560 kilometres. There are no details yet on how much the upgrade will cost or when it will be available to Roadster owners. The roadster was sold from 2008 to 2012 at a starting price of $109,000 US ($128,000 Cdn).

With fine-tuning, a better battery and a more aerodynamic body kit, the Tesla Roadster can be upgraded to travel about 640 kilometres on a single charge.

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Be less predictable, especially when dealing with people in positions of power. Too many people are taking you for granted — and will continue to until you do something.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There are a lot of people out there who could benefit from your brand of kindness, so start looking for ways you can assist.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
With your ruler Mercury strong today you are in a can-do mood but you may have to deal with people who seem incapable of making decisions. Stay calm.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today's positive cosmic influences suggest you can ask for almost anything you want and partners and loved ones will hand it over with no questions asked.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You are advised not to take money issues too seriously today, not because they don't matter but because you may well be looking at them from completely the wrong angle.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A little of what you fancy today will do you the world of good. Don't listen to those who say it is wrong to enjoy yourself when so many others are finding it tough. Show the world how easy it is to have fun.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Everything seems to be going so well that you may get a bit suspicious and start wondering if it's all too good to be true. On the contrary, loved ones will do anything for you. Enjoy it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Nothing is beyond you. That may sound too good to be true but you really can accomplish something remarkable over the next two or three days, simply by following your dream.

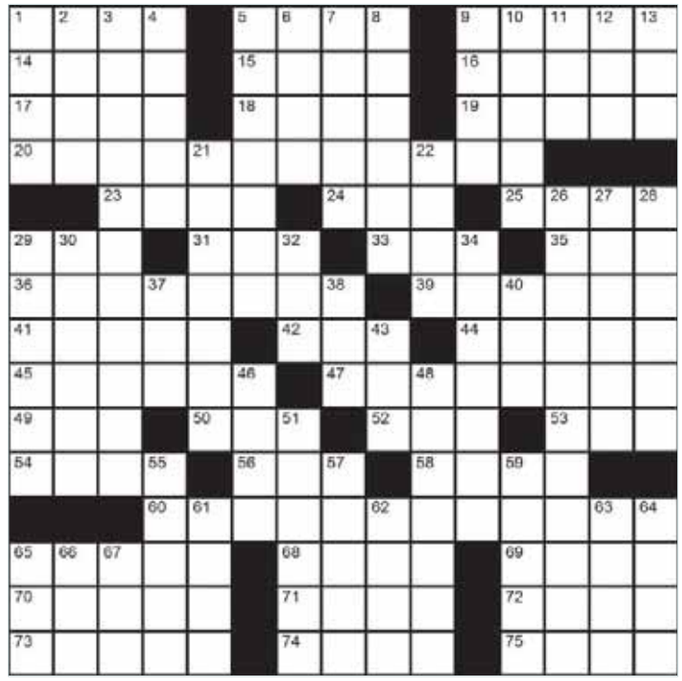
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will have to deal with someone today who is so slow that it drives you mad. Not everyone thinks or acts as quickly as you and sometimes you just have to wait for the slowest one in the group.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It is not your job to please someone else – it is their job to please you. Partners and loved ones know exactly what it is you desire — all you have to do is let them give it to you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
By all means have fun today but don't go too far and put your wellbeing at risk. Always leave a little something in reserve.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will receive good news today but for some reason you may find it hard to believe. The planets indicate that no one is trying to deceive you.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



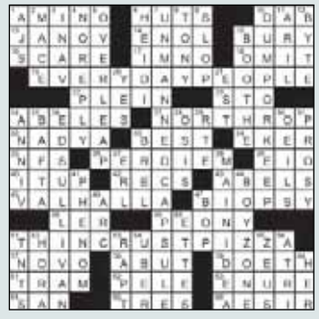
Across

1. Aware of the hoax: 2 wds.
5. __ _ good cause (Reason to donate)
9. Canadian soul songstress Ms. Watson
14. Do this :(
15. "Can _ __ a Witness" by Marvin Gaye
16. Bustling
17. Sacred looped cross
18. __-drop
19. 'R' of US state RI
20. Quebec City's sculpted Wintertime retreat from January 3rd to March 22nd, 2015: 3 mots
23. __-B toothbrush
24. 'N' of RCN [abbr.]
25. Mover's plank
29. Pronounce
31. Young sheep
33. "Uh-huh."
35. Pierre's 'here'
36. Swaps an old car towards the purchase of a new one: 2 wds.
39. Yalta's locale
41. One saying "Eww, gross.", say
42. Sever
44. Dispirit
45. 1989 Janet Jackson album: 'Rhythm __ 1814'
47. Post to a new post
49. Wildebeest
50. __ worth ($$$)
52. Response, for short
53. Beverage menu item
54. Shaggy animals of Tibet
56. "__ Wiederseh-hen!"
58. CD part, variantly
60. Map maker
65. Alexander __, Winnipeg-born hockey star
68. Triad
69. "Waking Up in __" (2002)
70. "Why __ you ready yet?" (Hurry up!)
71. Certain citrus
72. Antiquities
73. Funeral rite
74. Narrated
75. Additional

Down

1. Moonfish
2. Something naughty
3. Northwest Territories community called 'Tuk' for short
4. Questionnaire choice
5. Instruments featured in East Coast music
6. Fiend
7. Rule as a Royal
8. Not working but having fun instead: 2 wds.
9. Fashion designer Mr. Jacobs
10. Fireplace leftovers
11. 1990s trial Judge
12. "The Karate __" (1984)
13. Rock's valuable band
21. Afterwards: 2 wds.
22. With, in Montreal
26. Canadian rocker born in Sarnia, ON: 2 wds.
27. "__ __: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" (2009)
28. Ms. Agron of "Glee"
29. Cheap
30. Secrets to some
32. Canadian actor Mr. Bellows
34. Realm of Wilhelm I
37. Agnus __ (Mass prayer)
38. Hide Hair connector
40. Entries
43. Little legume
46. Just about
48. Mobile device operating system
51. Doubled disapproval
55. Plays: Act's one-of-some
57. Relinquish, variantly
59. Unrestrained shopping
61. Sidewalk bugs
62. Fish's 'lung'
63. Finales
64. Pink
65. Maple's drink
66. Blue Rodeo hit
67. 'Mountain' suffix

Yesterday's Crossword

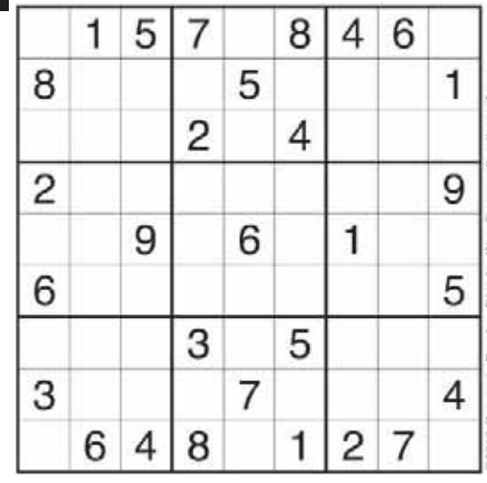


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	1	4	6	7	3	9	5
9	3	6	8	5	2	4	1	7
7	4	5	3	9	1	2	8	6
5	7	2	9	8	6	1	4	3
4	9	3	7	1	5	6	2	8
1	6	8	2	3	4	7	5	9
6	2	4	5	7	9	8	3	1
8	5	7	1	4	3	9	6	2
3	1	9	6	2	8	5	7	4

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2015 RIO LX MT

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown[‡] Cash purchase price $22,514
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/7.3L

from $21 weekly for 69 payments | 0% financing for up to 84 months | $0 down payment[Δ]

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $21 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) 84-month financing. After 69 weekly payments at $21, the weekly payments will increase to $43^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§] Excludes HST.

2015 FORTE LX MT

Forte SX AT shown[‡] Cash purchase price $26,814
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

from $24 weekly for 62 payments | 0% financing for up to 84 months | $0 down payment[Δ]

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $24 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) 84-month financing. After 62 weekly payments at $24, the weekly payments will increase to $48^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§] Excludes HST.

2015 OPTIMA LX AT

Optima SX Turbo shown[‡] Cash purchase price $33,514
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.7L/8.9L

from $36 weekly for 28 payments | 0% financing for up to 84 months | $0 down payment[Δ]

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $36 weekly payment amount includes $1,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F) 84-month financing. After 28 weekly payments at $36, the weekly payments will increase to $73^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§] Excludes HST.

2015 RONDO LX MT

Rondo EX Luxury 7-Seat with Navigation shown[‡]
Cash purchase price $30,594 – HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 6.2L/9.4L

from $31 weekly for 46 payments | 0% financing for up to 84 months | $0 down payment[Δ]

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $31 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Rondo LX MT (RN551F) 84-month financing. After 46 weekly payments at $31, the weekly payments will increase to $63^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§] Excludes HST.

2015 SORENTO LX AT

Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown[‡] Cash purchase price $38,894
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 9.0L/12.7L

from $39 weekly for 50 payments | 0% financing for up to 84 months | $0 down payment[Δ]

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $39 weekly payment amount includes $2,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) 84-month financing. After 50 weekly payments at $39, the weekly payments will increase to $79^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§] Excludes HST.

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Offer(s) available on select new 2015 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from January 3rd to February 2nd, 2015. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire tax, other taxes, environmental fee, and $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes licensing, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), fuel-fill charges up to $100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. [Δ]Up to **"Half Price Payments"** for up to one year ("Offer") is only applicable on financing offers on 2015 Rio/Forte/Optima/Sorento/Rondo models. On approved credit, from a participating dealer in Canada between January 3rd to February 2nd, 2015. The Offer consists of a loan credit (up to "Half Price Payments Credit") that will range from $500 to $3,250 depending on model/trim. Customers can choose to take the full amount of the applicable up to Half Price Payments Credit as a one (1) time incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price of the vehicle before taxes. Alternatively, customers can choose the up to "Half Price Payments" option and have their financing payments reduced (before taxes) by 50% until such time as the entire amount of the applicable up to Half Price Payments Credit has been exhausted. This may take between 10 weeks and 69 weeks depending on model/trim and the amount of the applicable up to Half Price Payments Credit. After the entire amount of the applicable up to Half Price Payments Credit has been exhausted, the customer will be required to pay the full amount of all regularly scheduled finance payments over the remaining term of the contract. Vehicle trade-in amounts and down payments are not calculated in the advertised up to "Half Price Payments". See dealer for complete details. [^]**Representative financing example**: 0% financing offer for up to 84 months available to qualified retail customers on approved credit for the new 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F)/2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F)/2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F)/2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF)/2015 Rondo LX MT (RN551F) with a purchase price of $15,614/$17,514/$26,414/$28,794/$23,094 financed at 0% for 84-month period with $0 down payment equals 69/62/28/50/46 reduced weekly payments of $21/$24/$36/$39/$31 followed by weekly payments of $43/$48/$73/$79/$63. Cost includes delivery and destination fees of up to $1,665, $5 OMVIC fee, tire tax of $29, $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Includes $1,500/$1,500/$1,000/$2,000/$1,500 up to "Half Price Payments" credit. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total obligation is $14,114/$16,014/$25,377/$26,794/$21,594. "Half Price Payment" Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. Offer ends February 2nd, 2015. [‡]Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2015 Forte SX (FO748F)/2015 Rio4 SX with Navigation (RO749F)/2015 Sorento EX AT AWD (SR75HF)/2015 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748F)/2015 Rondo EX Luxury (RN756F) is $26,814/$22,514/$38,894/$33,514/$30,594. ^ Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2015 Rio LX+ ECO AT/2015 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl MT/2015 Sorento LX 2.4L GDI 4-cyl AT/2015 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl AT/2015 Optima 2.4L GDI AT. These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. [¤]$1,000 New Year Bonus amounts are offered on select 2015 Winter Edition models and are deducted from the negotiated purchase price before taxes. Available on financing offers only. Certain conditions apply. $1,000 New Year Bonus amount available on the 2015 Rondo LX AT (5-seat) Winter SE (RN75SF), 2015 Rondo LX AT (7-seat) Winter SE (RN75TF) and 2015 Optima LX AT Winter SE (OP745F). Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.